





PAIN

What causes pain? Is pain subjective?

Can pain be quantified? Imaged?

Does pain have “value”?

Do other “life forms” experience pain? (ie: as models)

How good are we in alleviating pain?

Is there a place for “conditioning”?

Can pain be “tolerated”?

Demystifying Medicine: Pain How It Happens and What Can Be Done

Brian Walitt MD MPH

Special Thanks to our Patient
Melissa



I have no financial conflicts of interests to report



Pain: an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage

Nociceptive Pain





Functional Pain



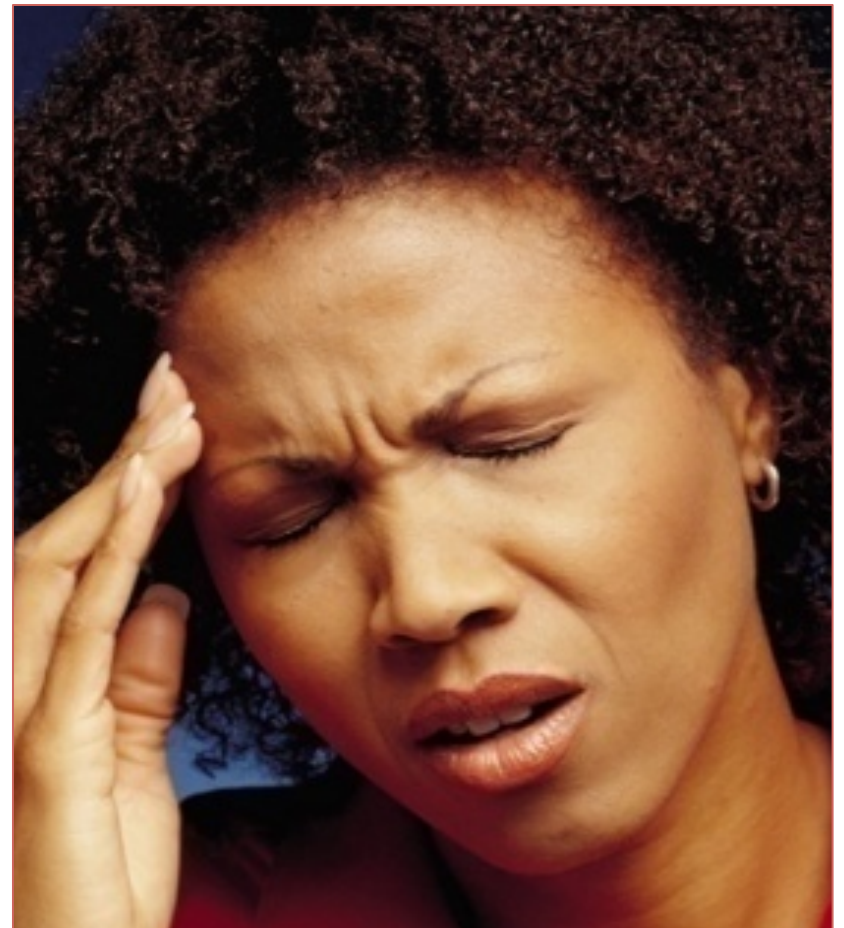


Low Back Pain

- 15 million medical visits/year
 - 2.5% of all medical visits
- \$100 billion/year in medical costs
 - 75% costs due to 5% LBP patients

Tension-Type Headaches

- Affects 38% of the population.
- Chronic symptoms in 2% population



Osteoarthritis

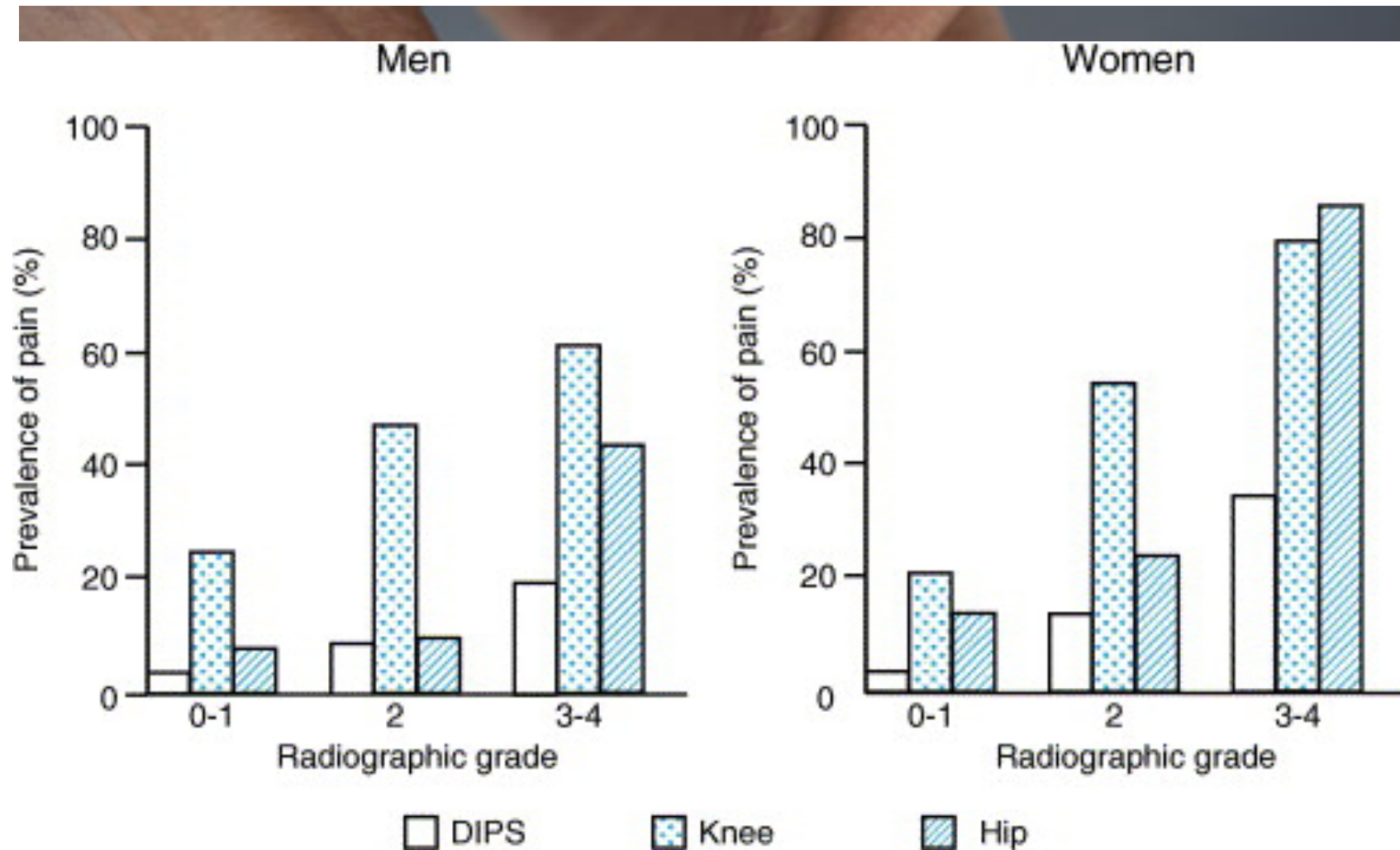
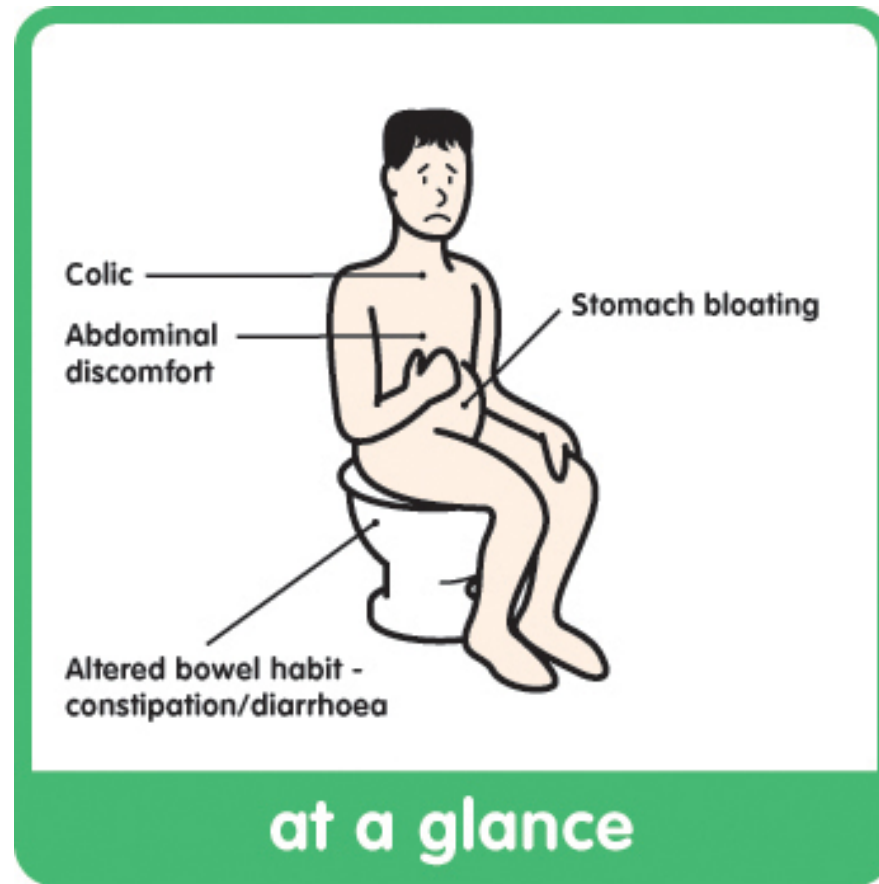


Figure 1

Figure 2

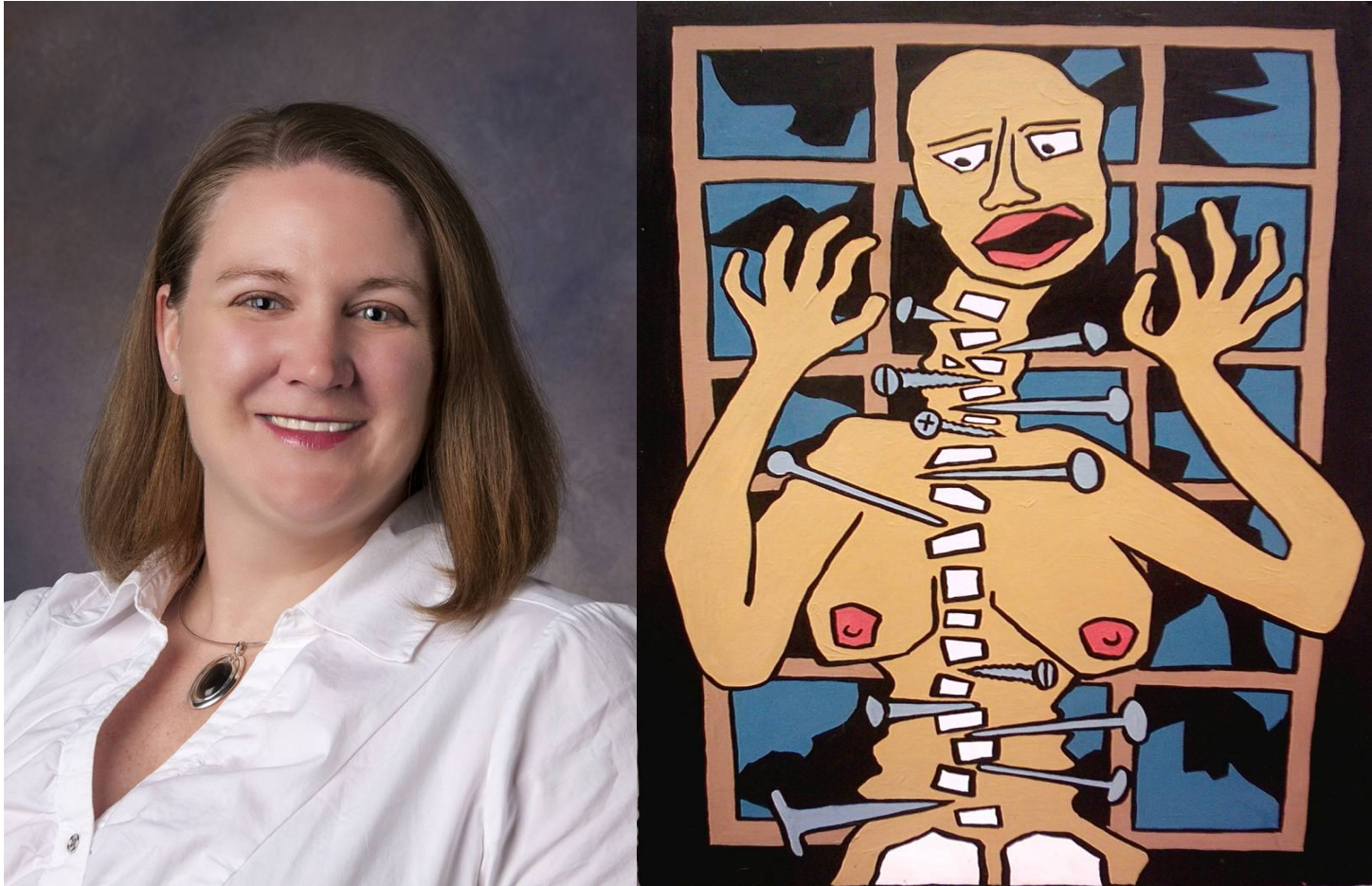
- 11.1 million office visits in 2004
- \$186 billion in US medical costs in 2009



Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

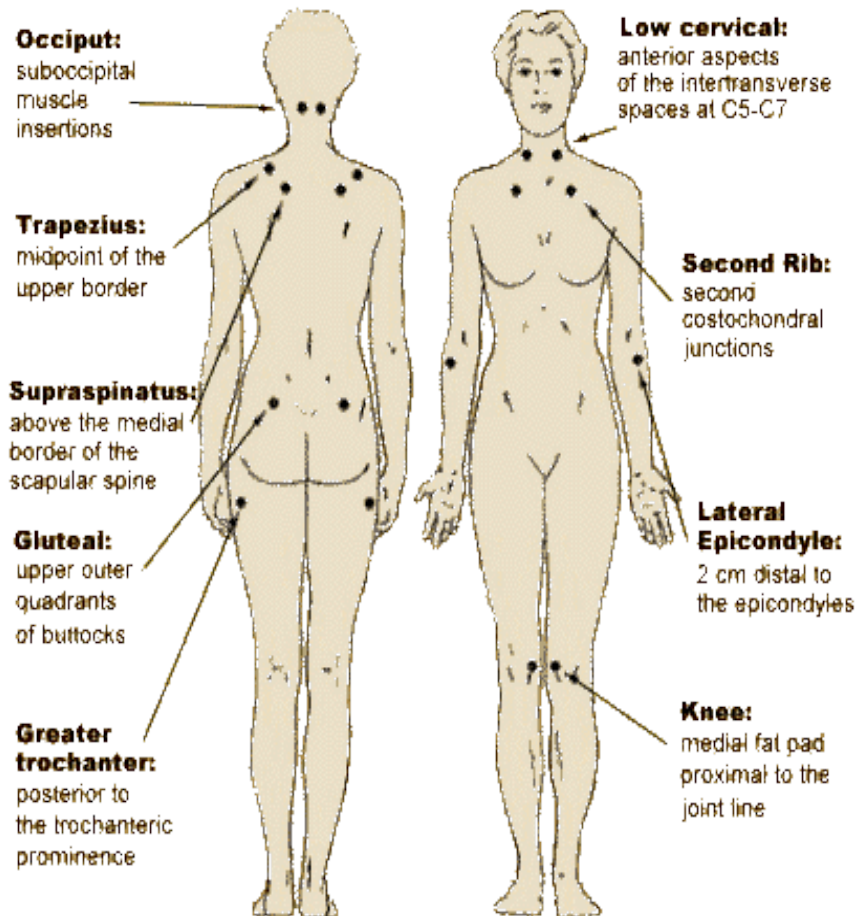
- 10-15% population have symptoms
- Comprises >25% of all gastroenterologist referrals
 - Medical costs estimated at \$30 billion/year

Fibromyalgia



- Estimated to affect 4% of the population
- Estimated \$12-14 billion/year in US health care costs
- Over 25% of patients with fibromyalgia are disabled

Fibromyalgia



The archetypical functional pain syndrome

- No obvious cause of pain
- Pain > 3 months
- All 4 quadrants of body
- 11/18 Tender points

Neck Pain	Interstitial Cystitis
Low Back Pain	Endometriosis
Osteoarthritis	Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
Rheumatoid Arthritis	Phantom Limb Pain
Fibromyalgia	Myofascial Pain Syndrome
Headache	Temporomandibular Disorder
Vulvodynia	Costochondritis
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	Burning Mouth Syndrome

- Discordance between objective injury and subjective pain experience define all of functional pain disorders
- Do these different functional pain disorders share a common biology in the brain?
- What factors can create meaningful changes in their common biology?
- Can we successfully treat functional pain disorders by medically altering this common biology?

There are 3 levels of pain:
Pain, excruciating pain, and
stepping on a Lego.

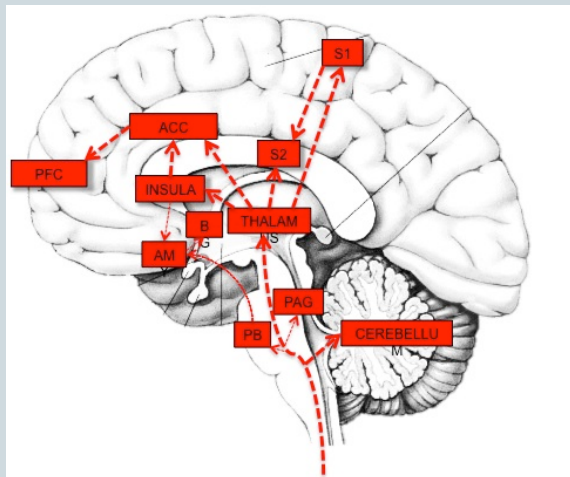


your  cards
someecards.com

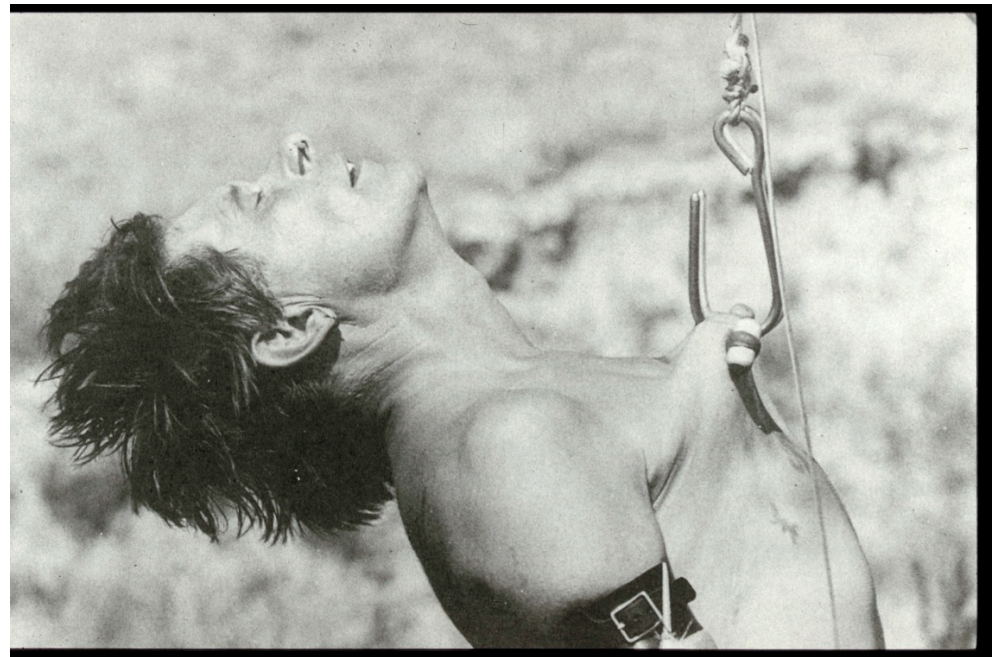
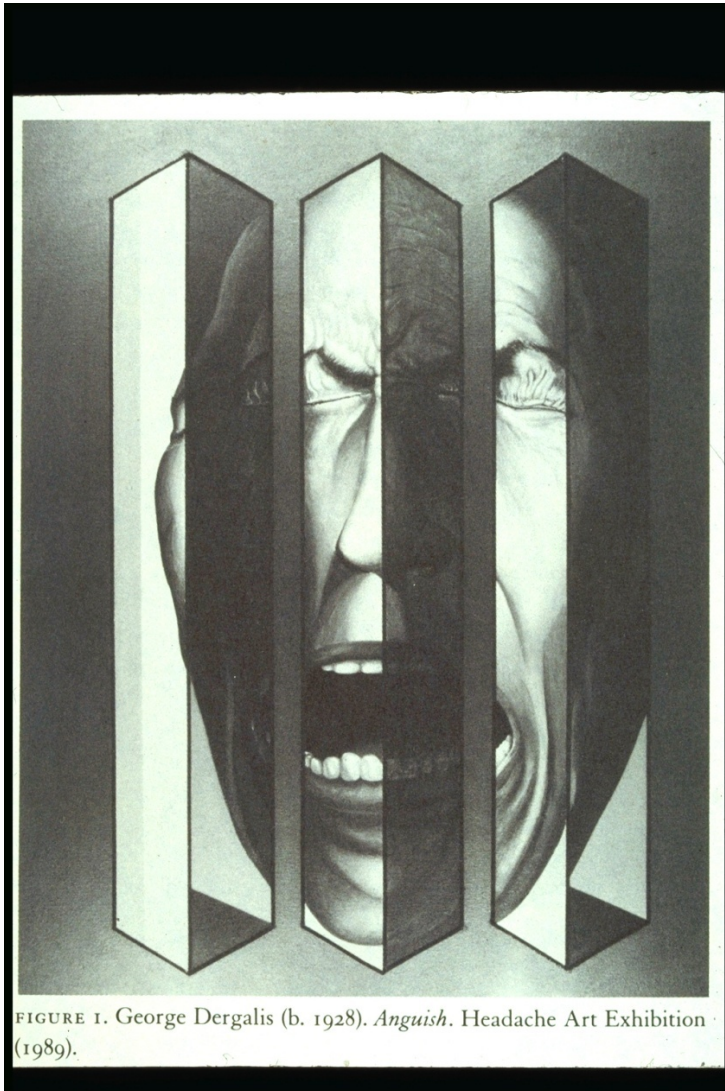
The neurobiology of pain



M. CATHERINE BUSHNELL
NCCAM/NIH



Pain is a complex sensory and affective experience



There Are Multiple Distinct Pains Each with Different Causes and Underlying Mechanisms

Nociceptive Pain



Noxious stimulus
Pinch/pinprick
Intense heat/cold
Acute trauma

Protective



Post-operative pain
Post-trauma
Arthritis
Inflammatory

Healing/repair
or pathological

Neuropathic Pain



PNS and CNS
lesions
PHN/PDN/SCI

Pathological

Functional Pain



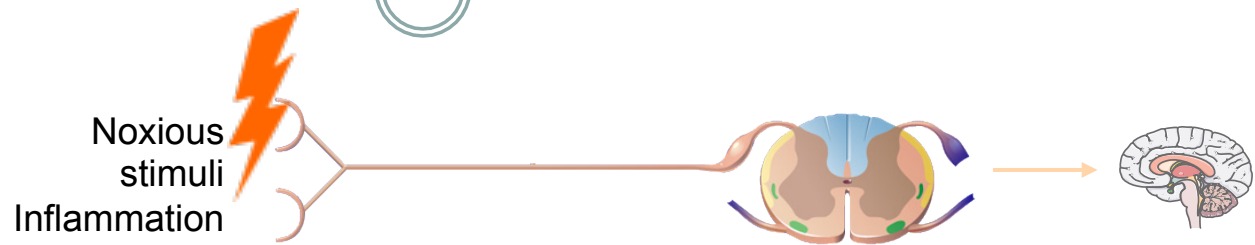
Fibromyalgia

Pathological

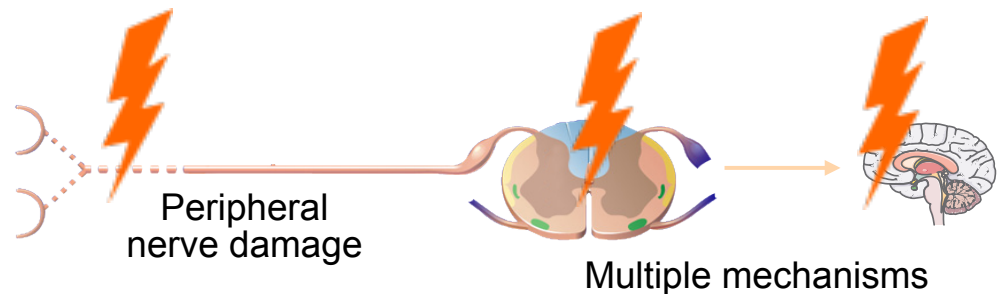
CNS=Central nervous system; IBS=Irritable bowel syndrome; PDN=Painful diabetic neuropathy;
PHN=Post-herpetic neuralgia; PNS=Peripheral nervous system; SCI=Spinal cord injury.

Multiple Types of Pain

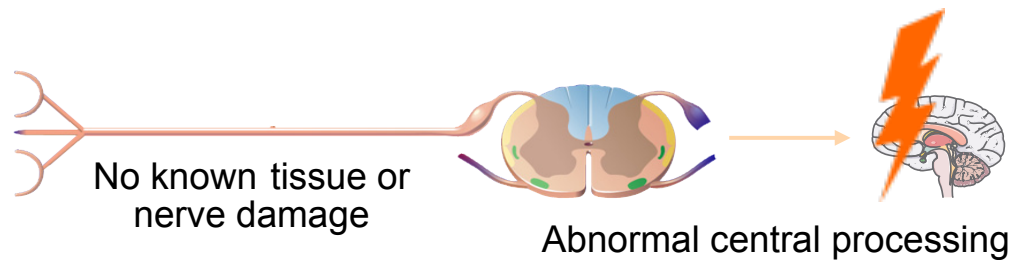
Nociceptive pain



Neuropathic pain

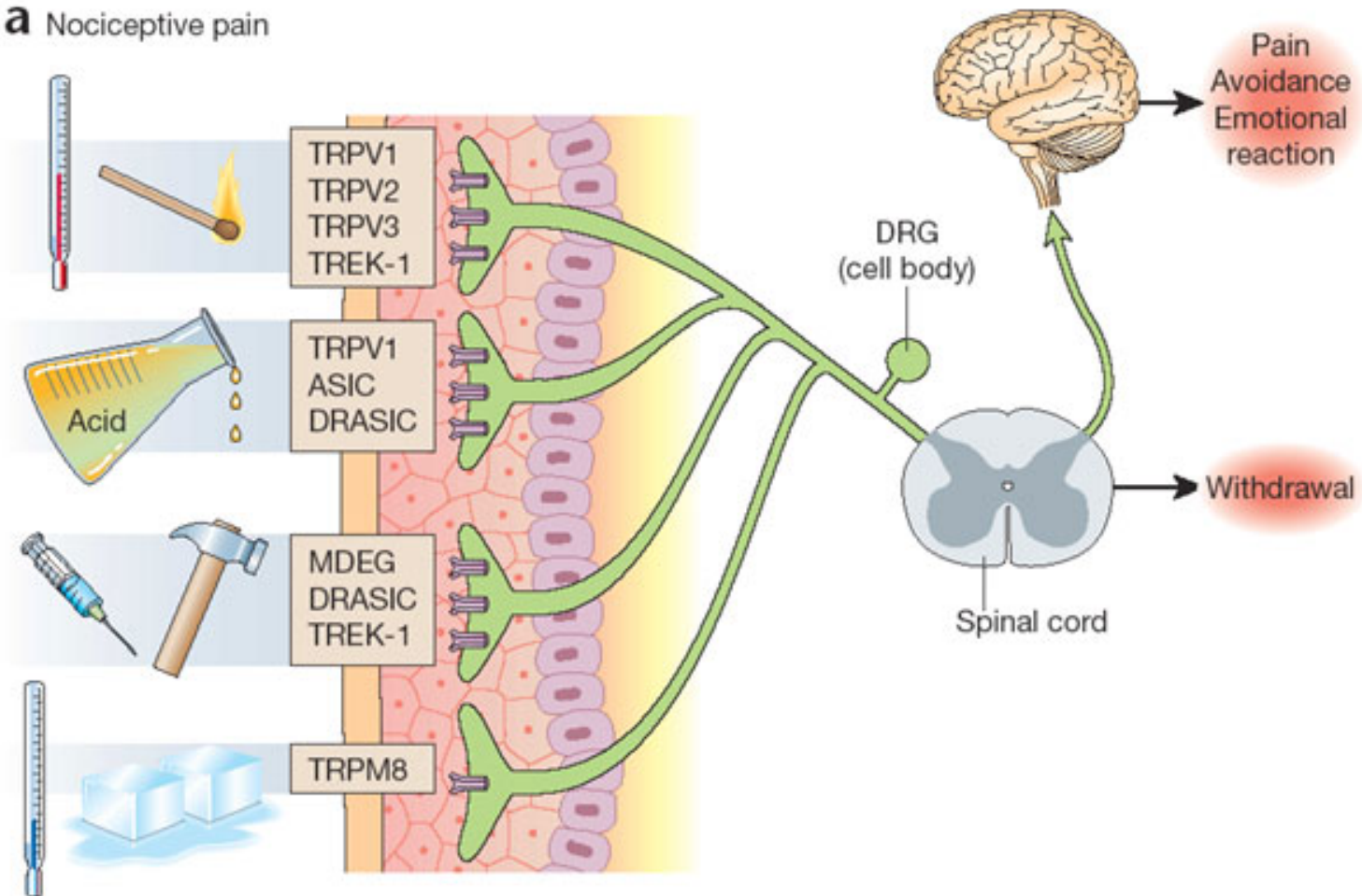


Functional pain
(non-inflammatory
non-neuropathic)



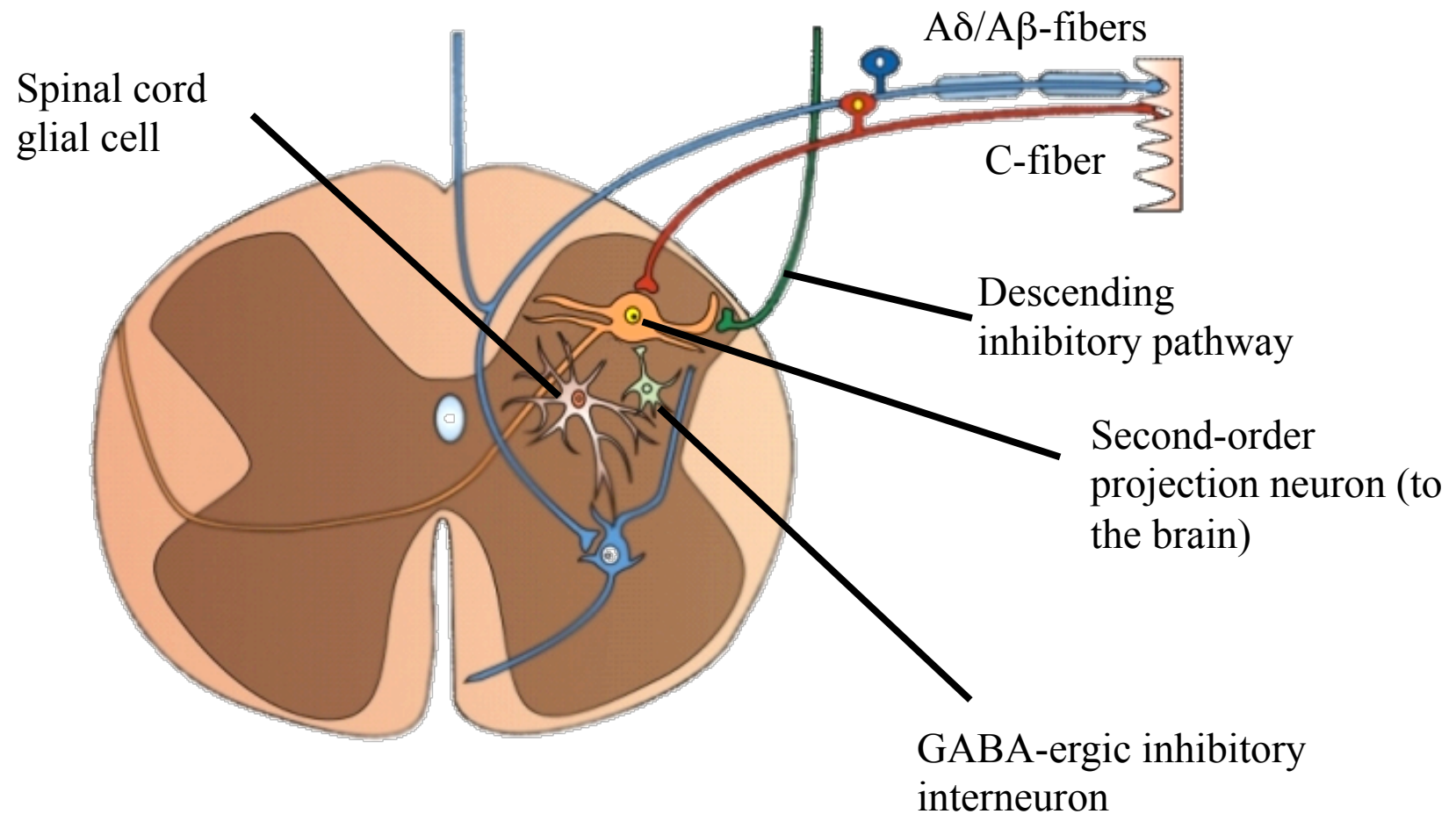
Figures adapted from: Woolf. *Ann Intern Med* 2004;140(6):441-51.

a Nociceptive pain



Transduction mechanisms of nociceptive pain

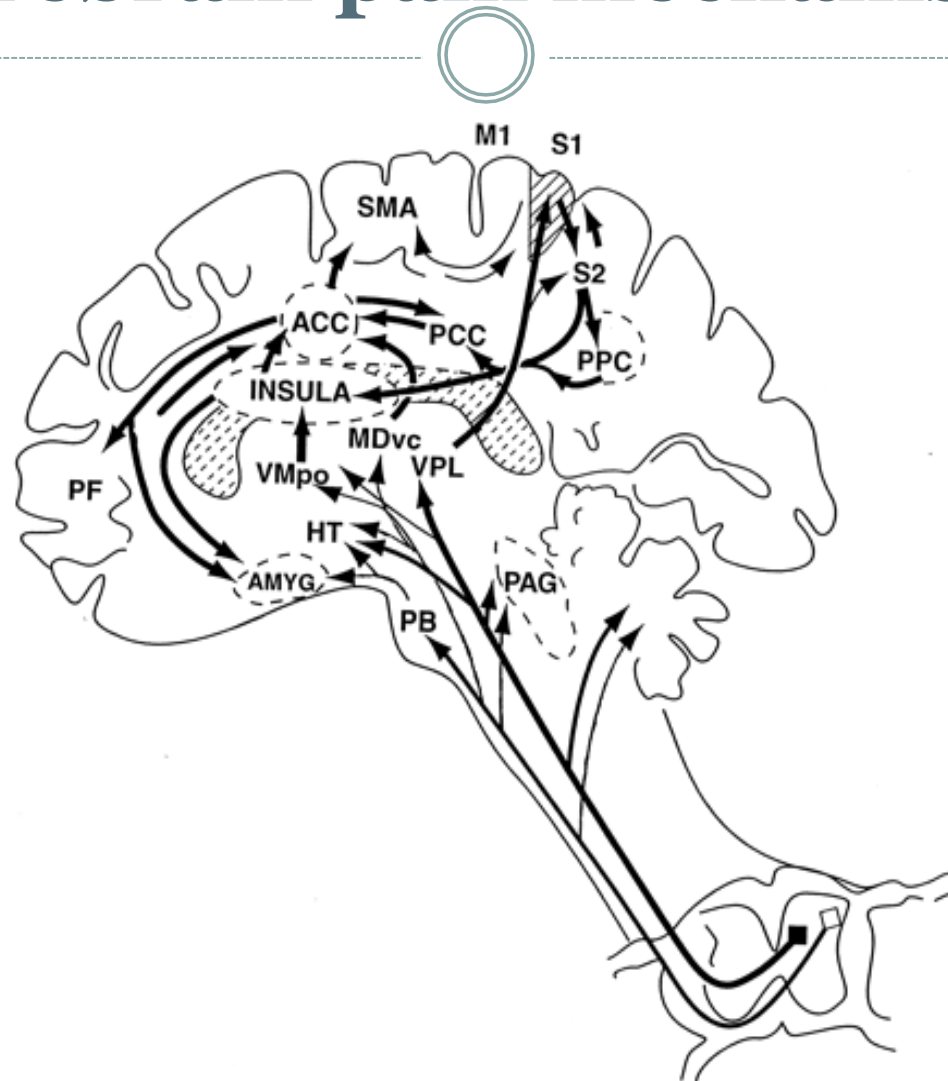
Spinal cord dorsal horn



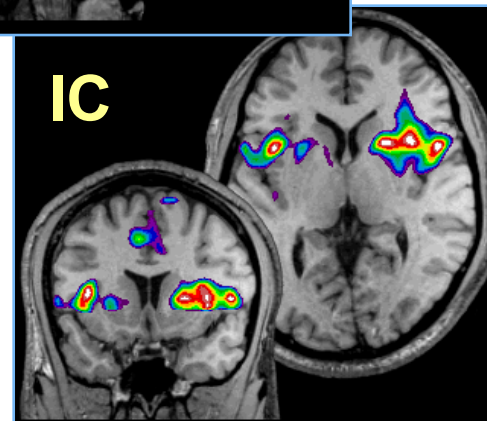
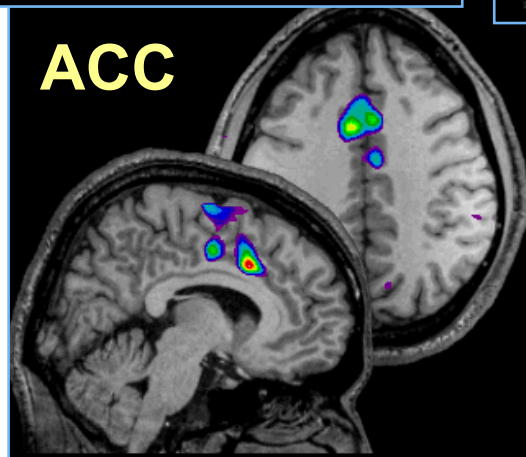
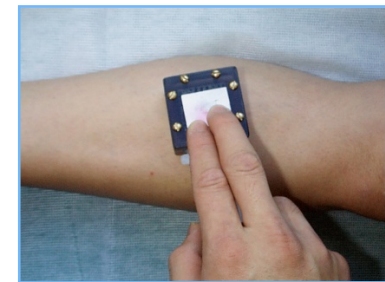
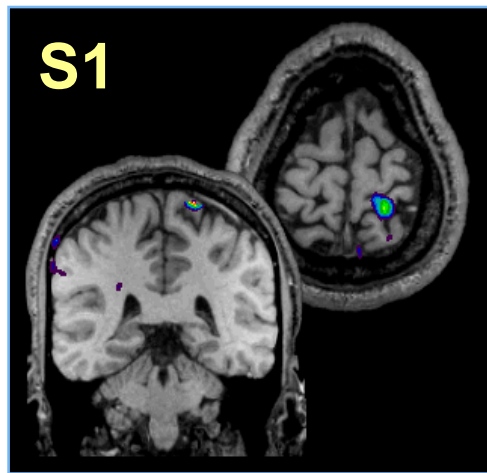
GABA= γ -aminobutyric acid.

Baron. *Nat Clin Pract Neurol* 2006;2(2):95-106.

Forebrain pain mechanisms

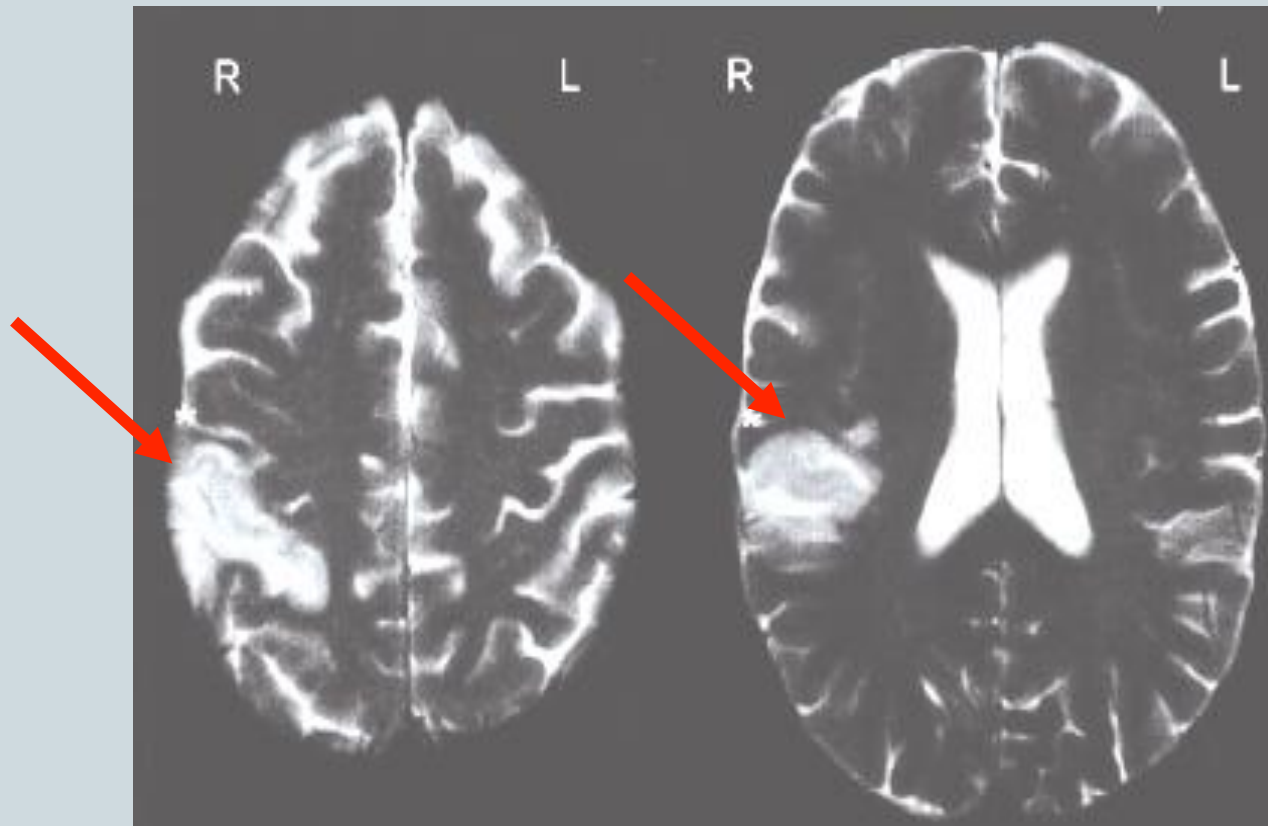


Sensory and affective brain regions activated by pain



ACC: Anterior cingulate cortex; IC: Insular cortex.
Apkarian A, et al. *Eur J Pain*. 2005;9:463–485.

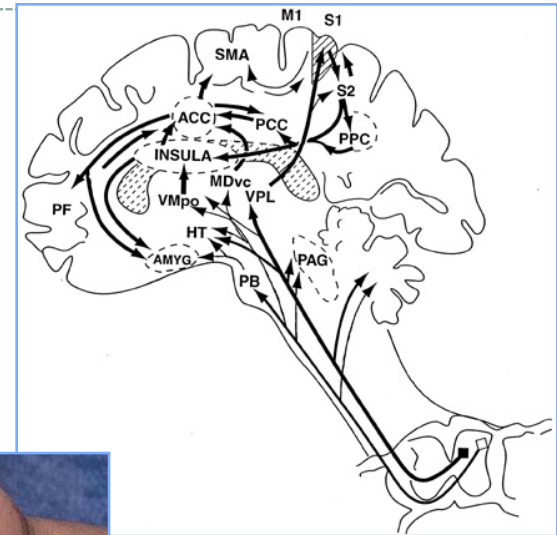
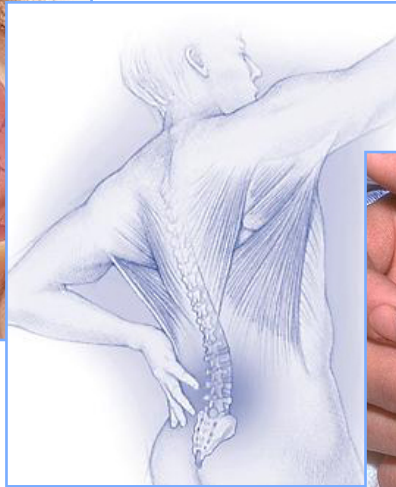
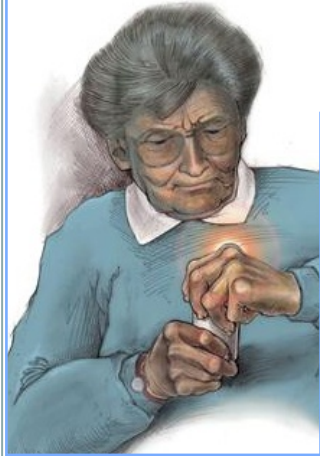
Sensory and limbic regions have different roles in pain processing



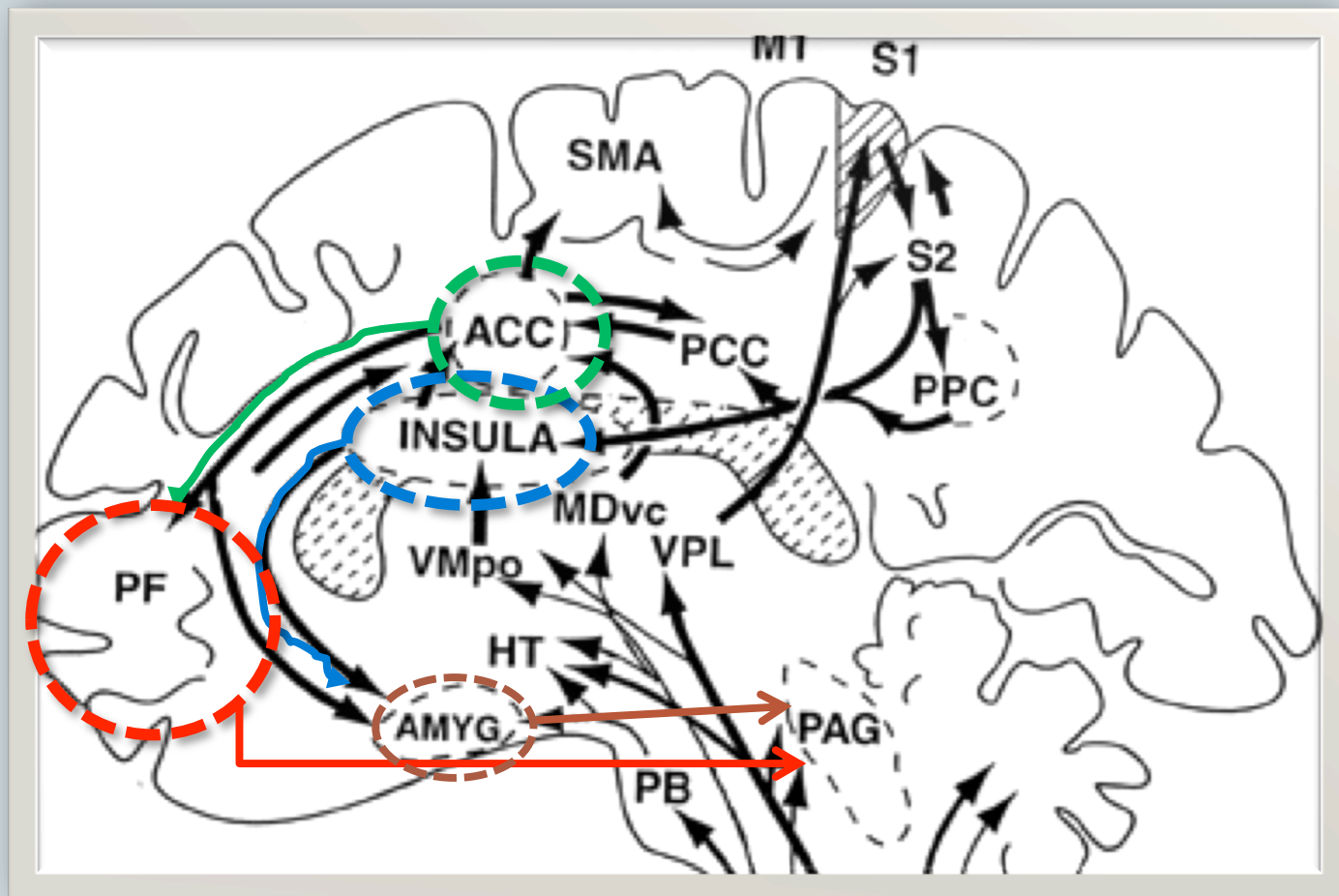
Pain affect without “pain sensation” in patient with postcentral lesion

Ploner et al. 1999

Pain network activated by many types of pain

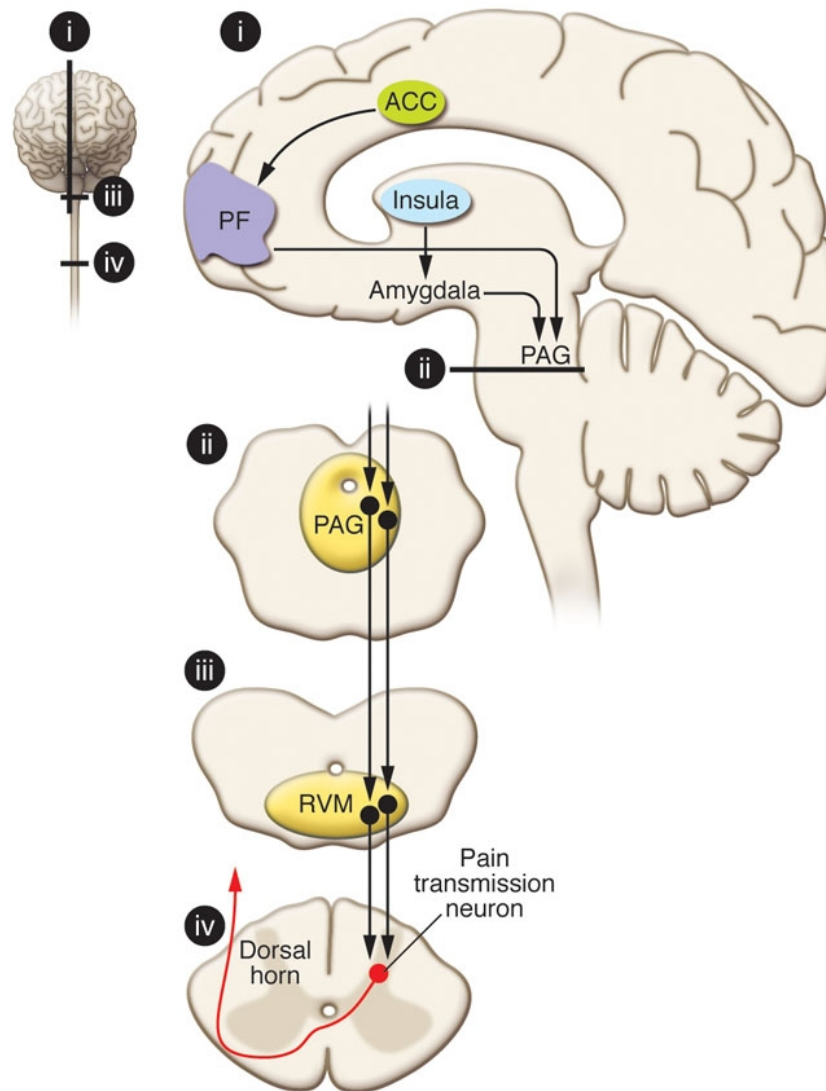


Some cortical regions are involved in descending pain modulation

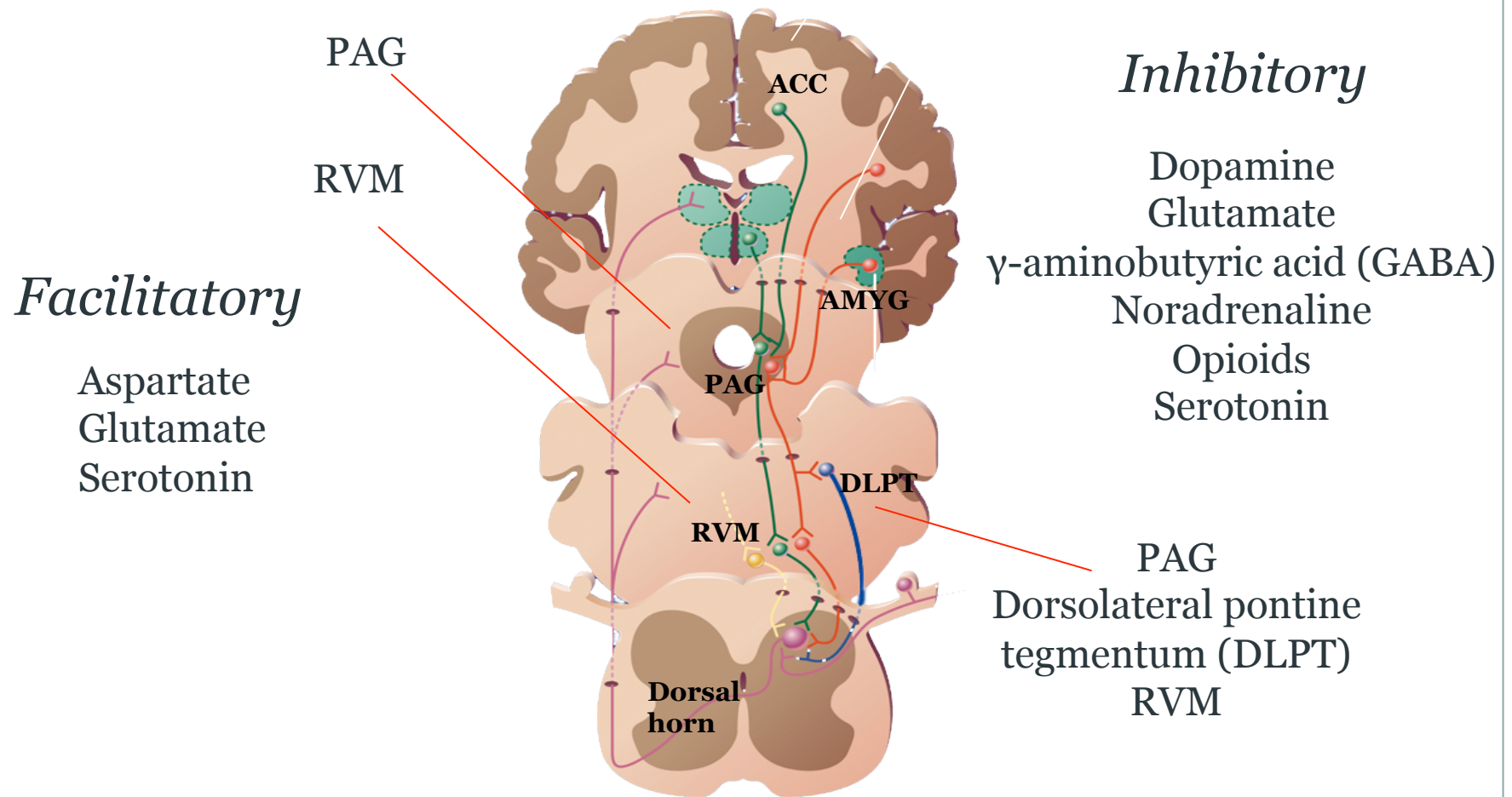


Descending modulation of pain

Information from cortex ultimately received in spinal cord



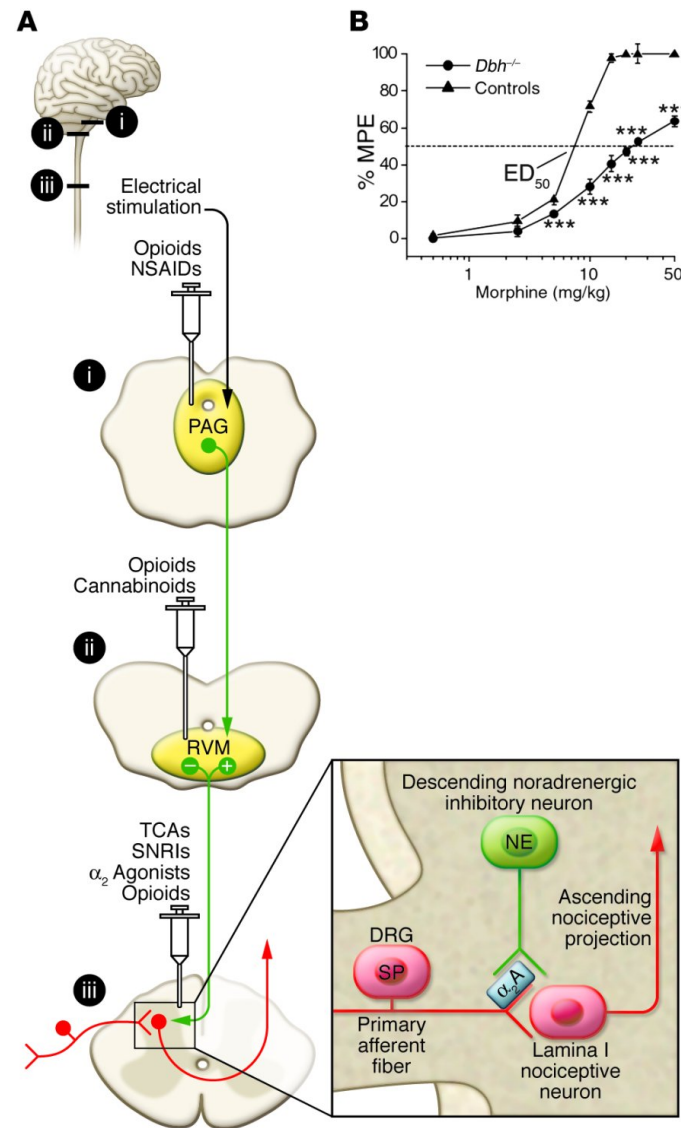
Descending pathways can facilitate or inhibit pain¹⁻³



1. Fields HL, et al. 1991.
2. Vanegas H, Schaible H-G. 2004.
3. Ren K, Dubner R. 2007.

Descending pathways are central targets for analgesic drugs.

But how are they activated naturally?



Psychological factors modulate pain via these descending modulatory pathways

Emotions



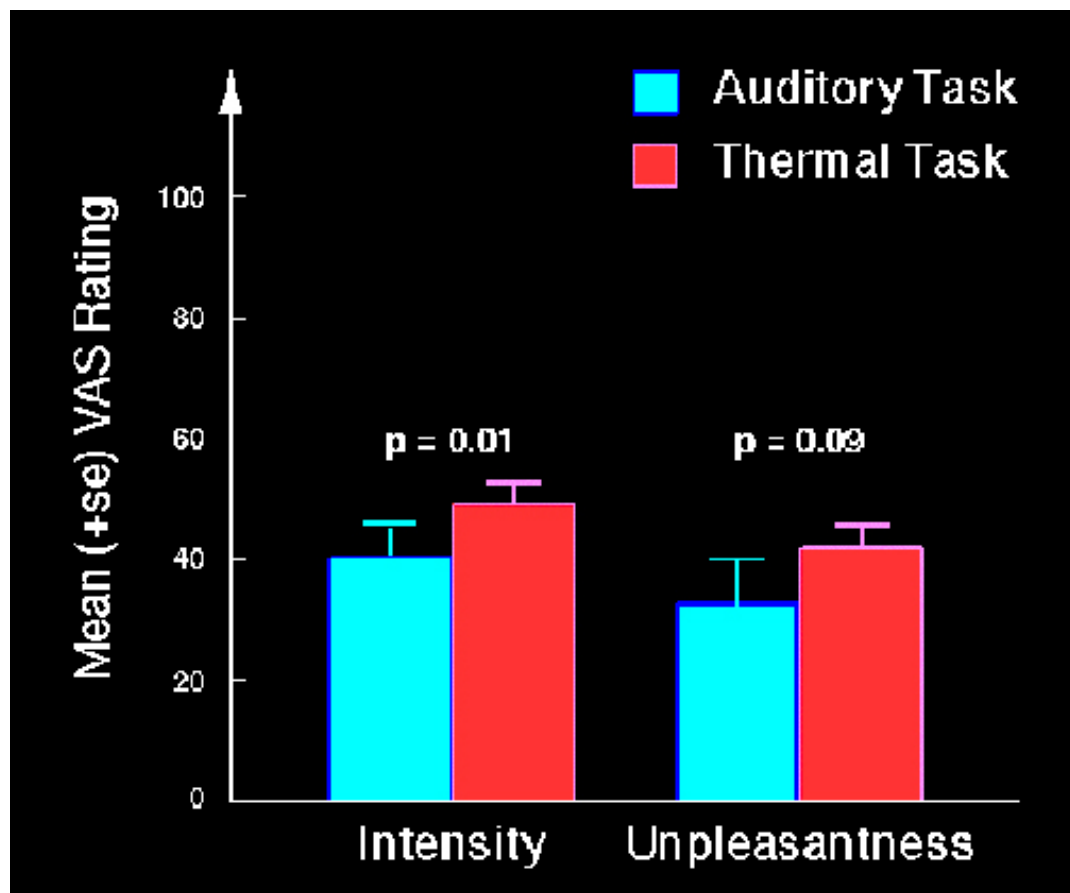
Attention



How do
psychological
conditions
alter pain?



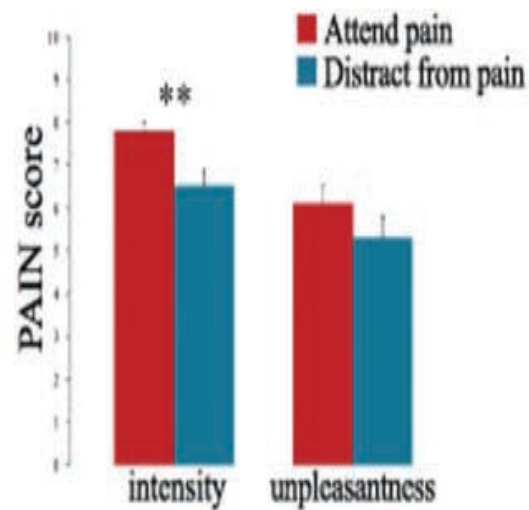
Attention Modulates Pain



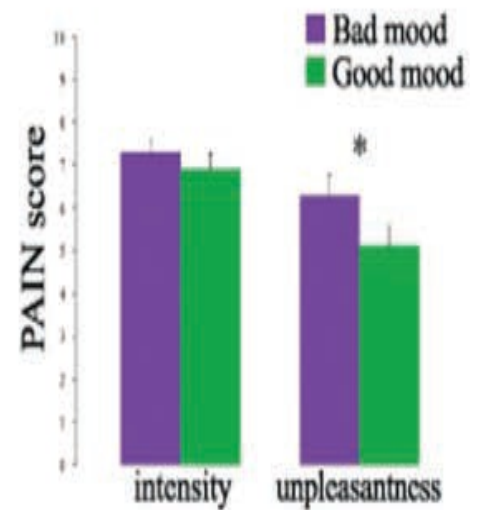
Emotions alter pain differently than attention



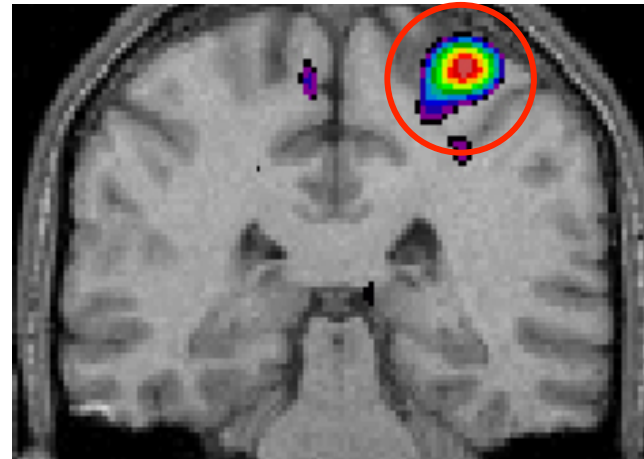
ATTENTIONAL MODULATION



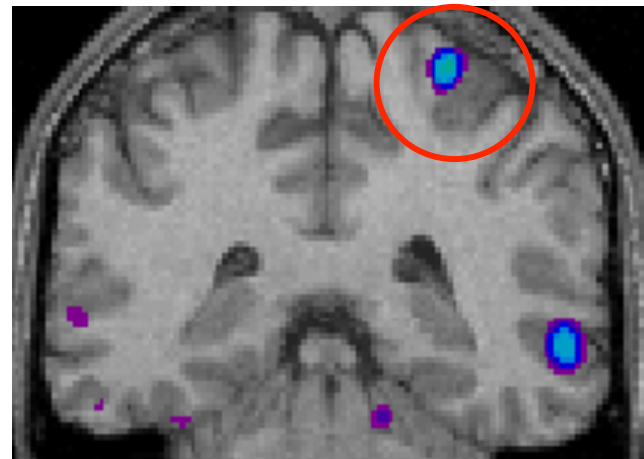
EMOTIONAL MODULATION



Attention Modulates Pain



Attention to pain

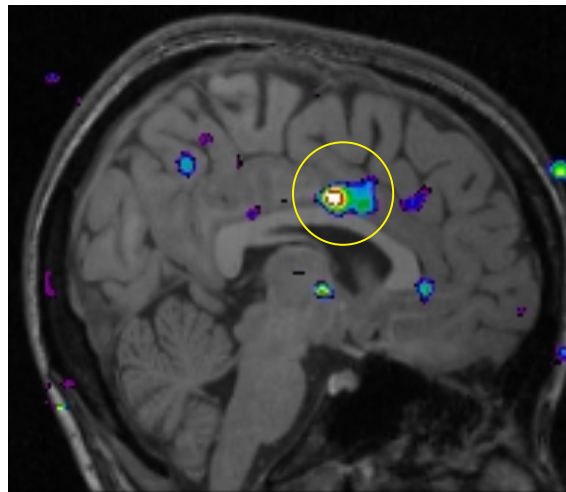


Distraction from pain

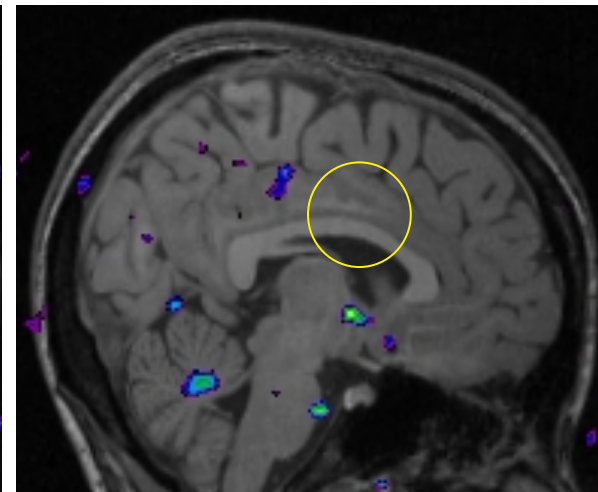
Emotions alters pain



Mood alters pain-evoked activity in
limbic brain regions



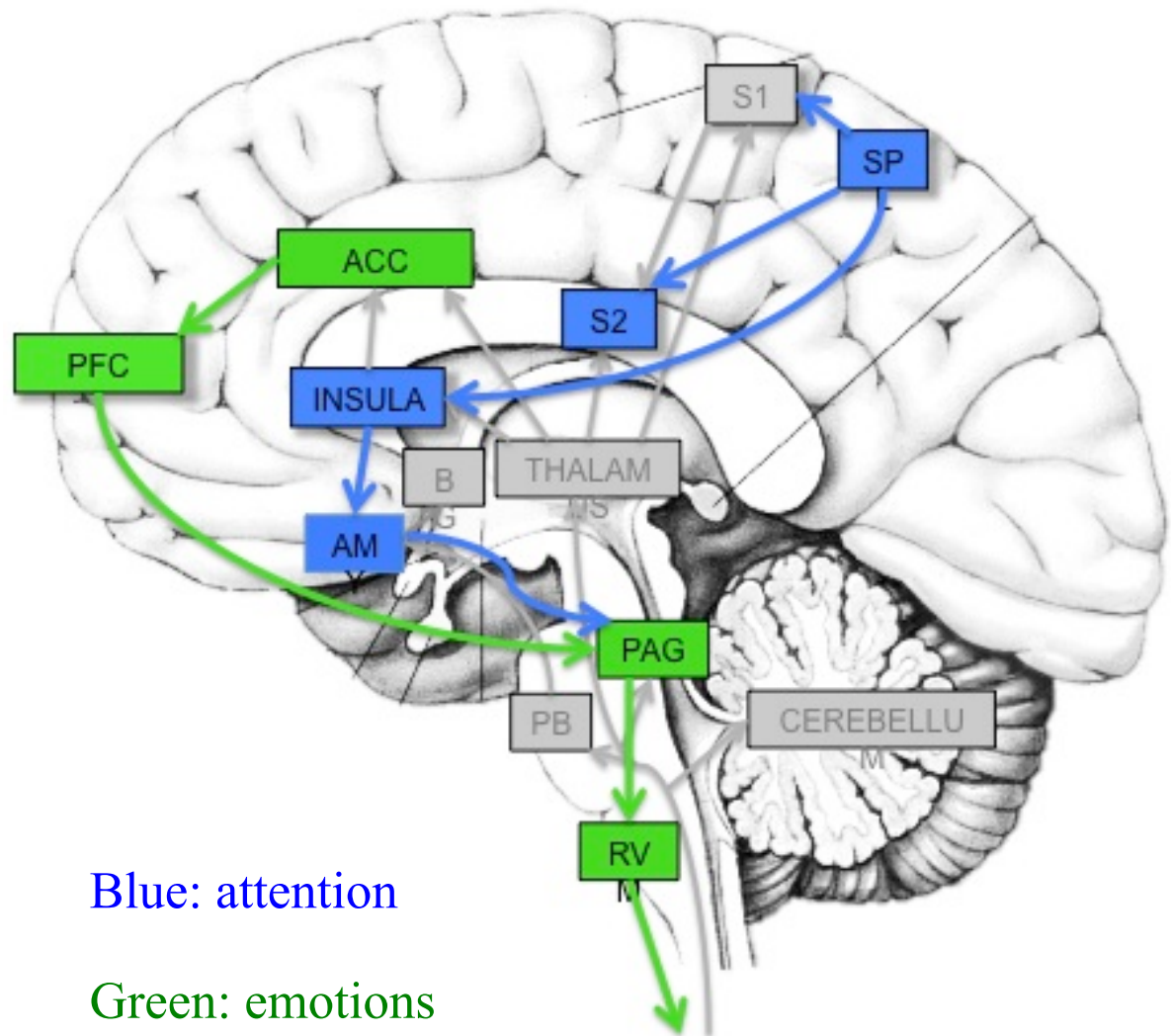
Bad mood + Pain



Good mood + Pain

Anterior cingulate cortex

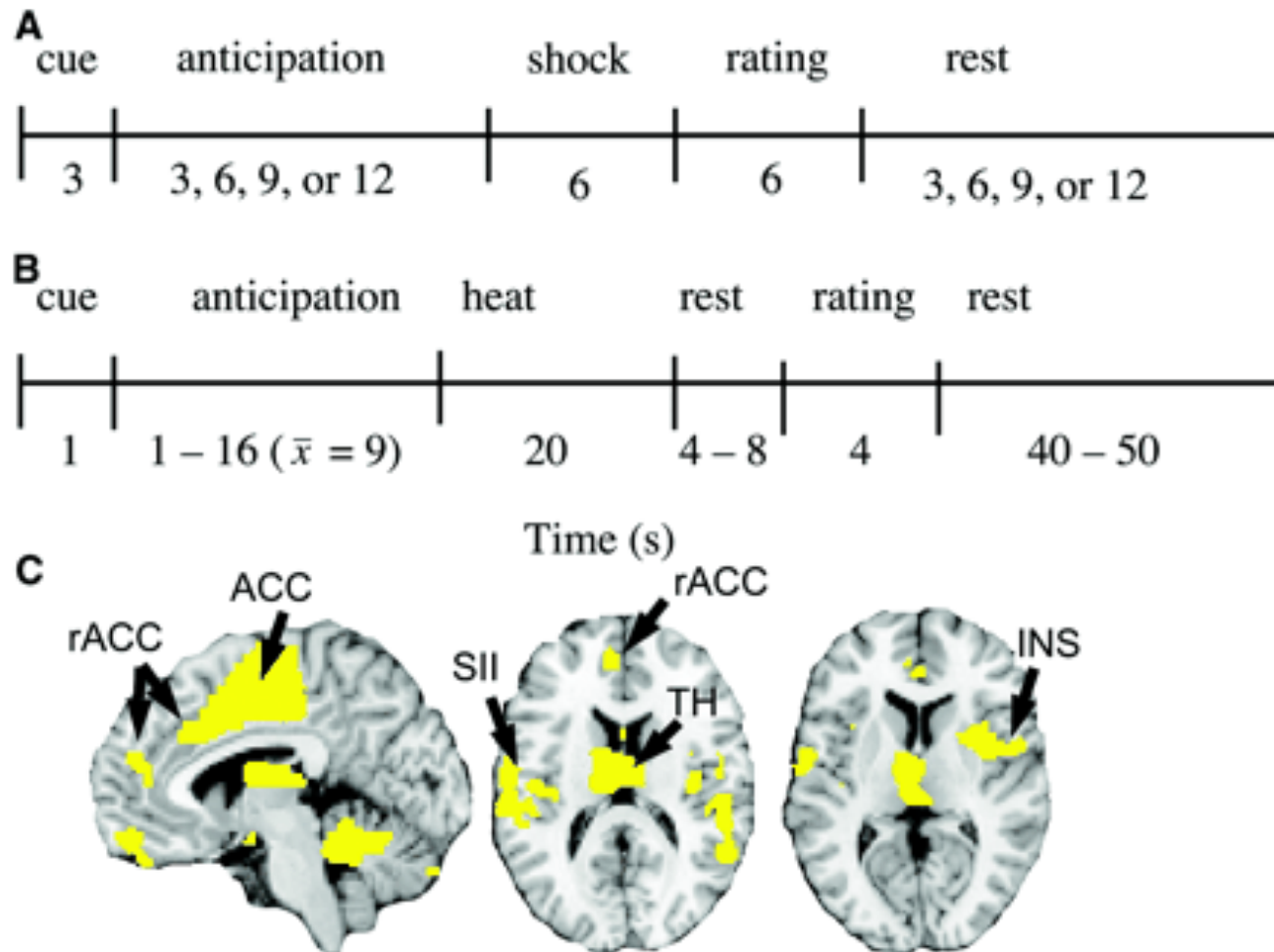
Attention and emotion activate different modulatory circuitry in brain



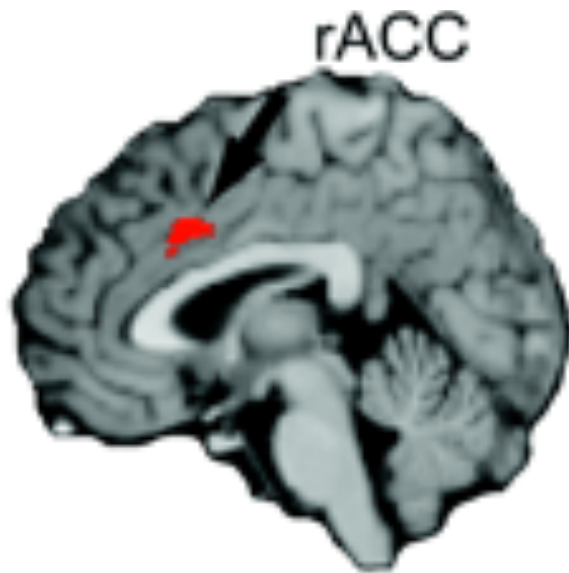
Placebo Analgesia



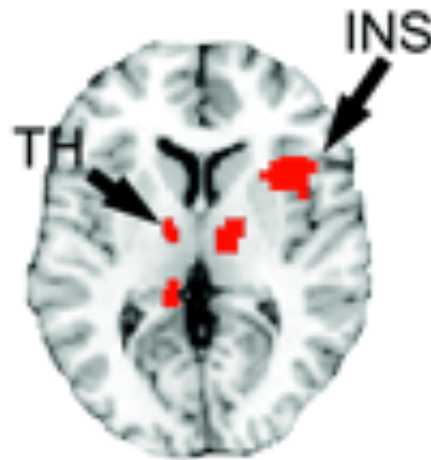
Imaging placebo analgesia



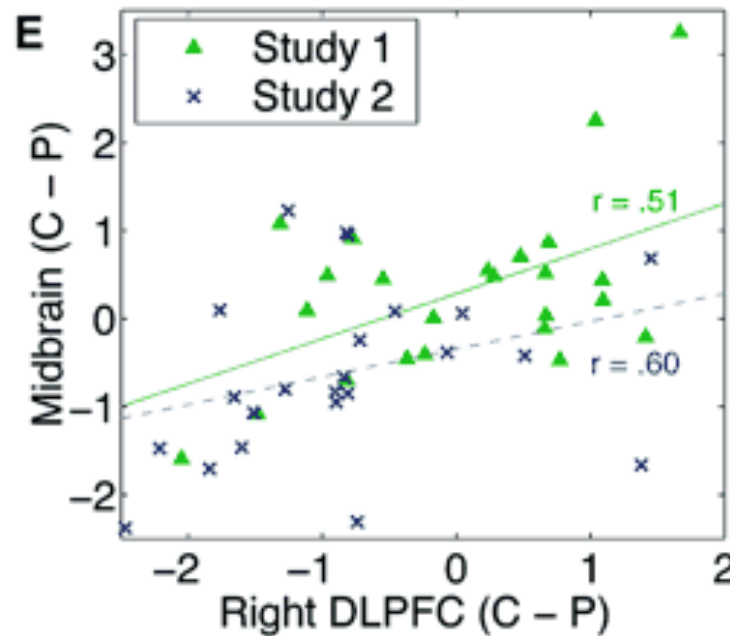
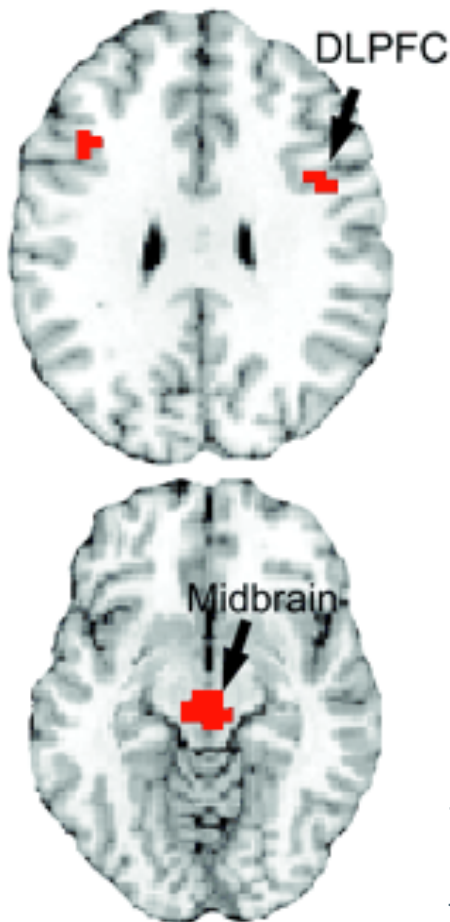
Imaging placebo analgesia



Placebo reduces pain-evoked activity in ACC, insula and thalamus

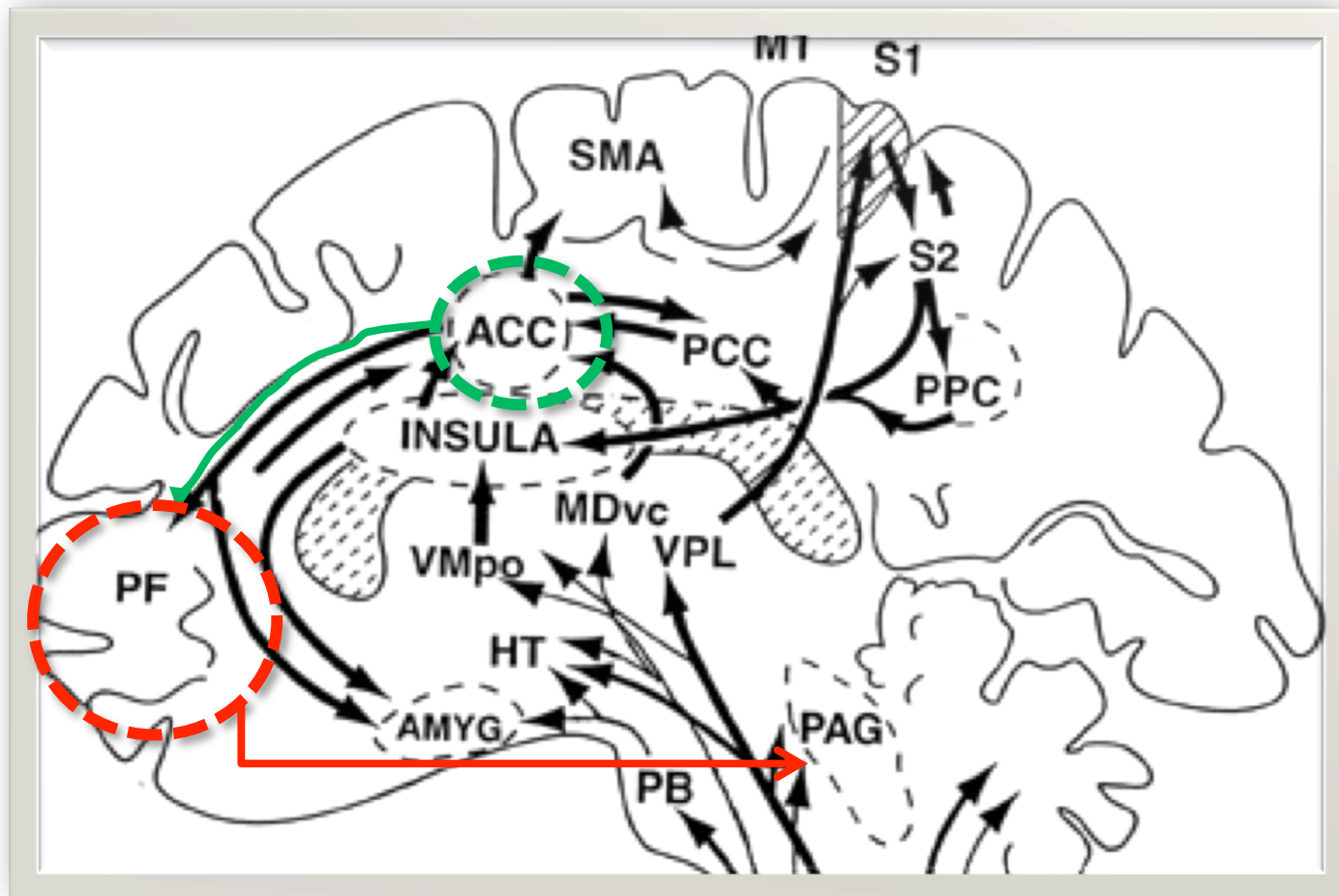


Imaging placebo analgesia

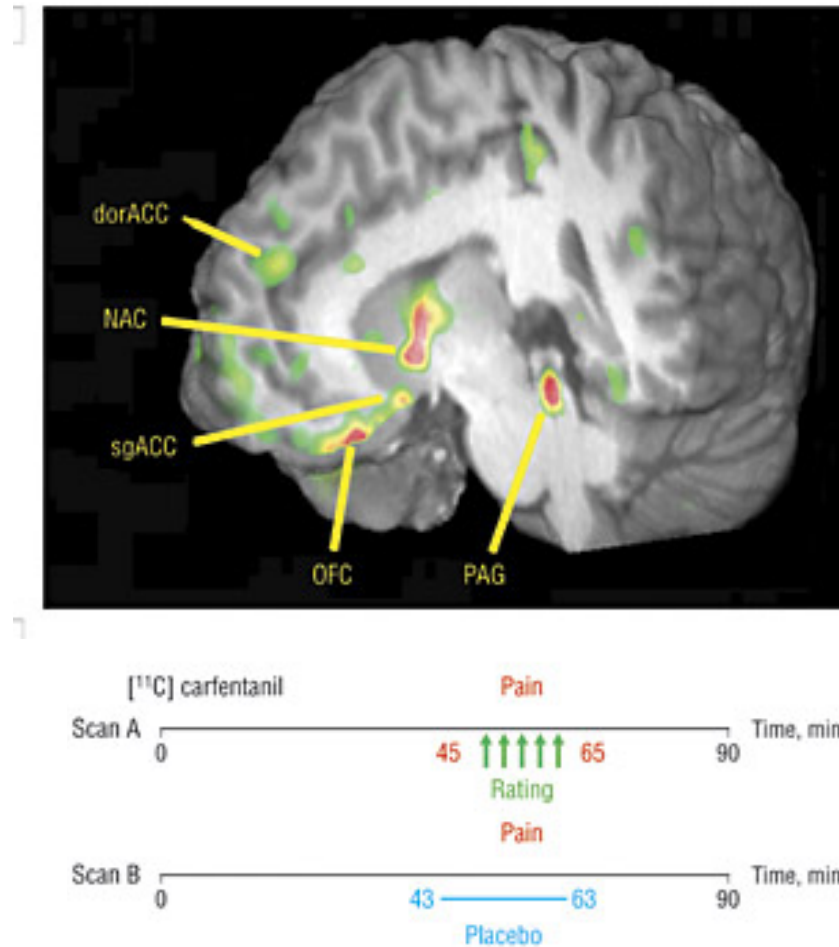


Placebo increased prefrontal and midbrain activity in anticipation of pain

Placebo activates similar descending system as does emotional modulation

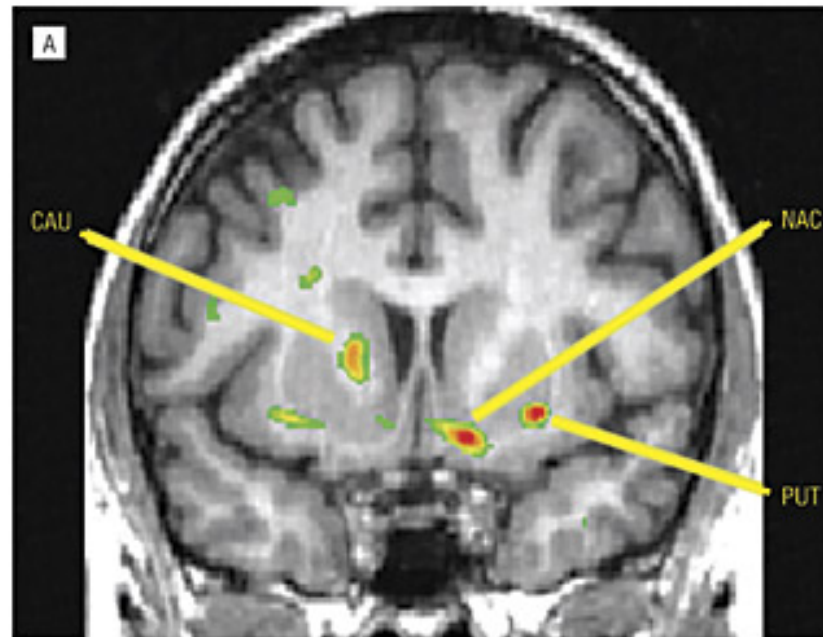


Placebo activates mu-opioid receptors



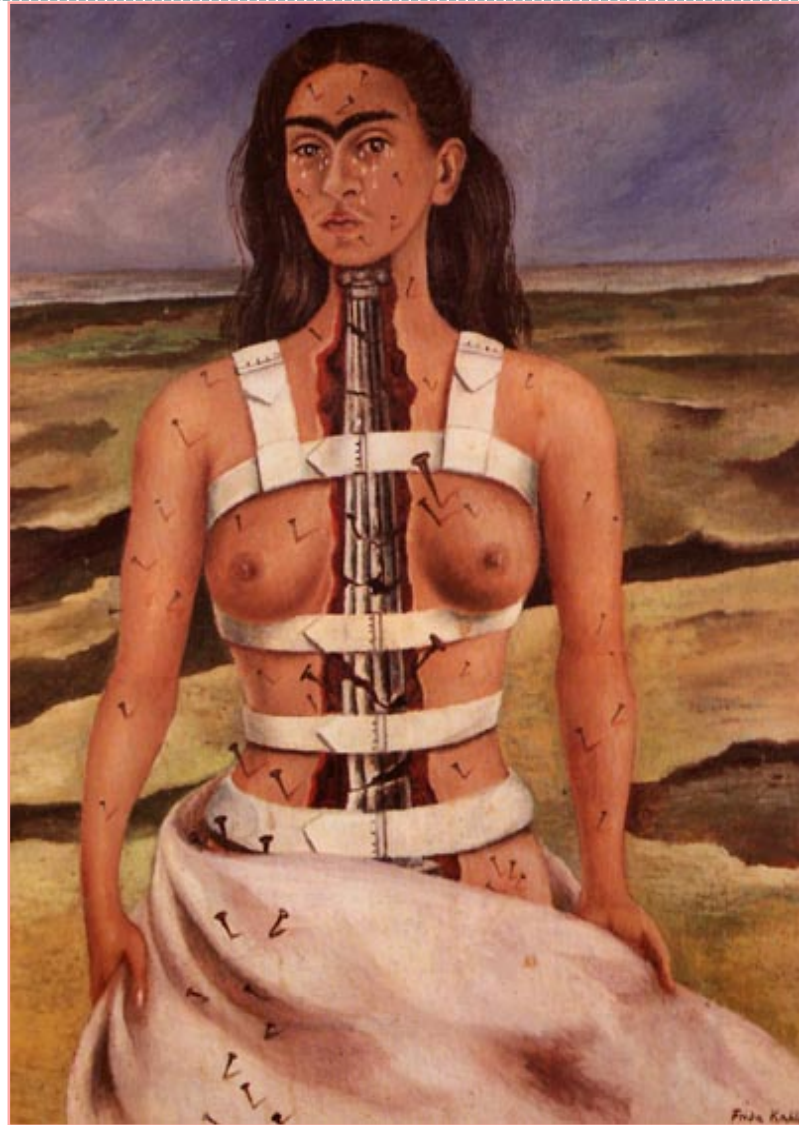
Scott, D. J. et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry 2008;65:220-231.

Placebo activates dopamine D2/D3 receptors



Scott, D. J. et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry 2008;65:220-231.

Central neuroplasticity with chronic pain



Frida Kahlo

Central sensitization



**“INCREASE IN THE EXCITABILITY OF
THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM SO
THAT NORMAL INPUTS NOW EVOKE
EXAGGERATED RESPONSES”**

Neuroplasticity in Spinal Cord Processing: Central Sensitization

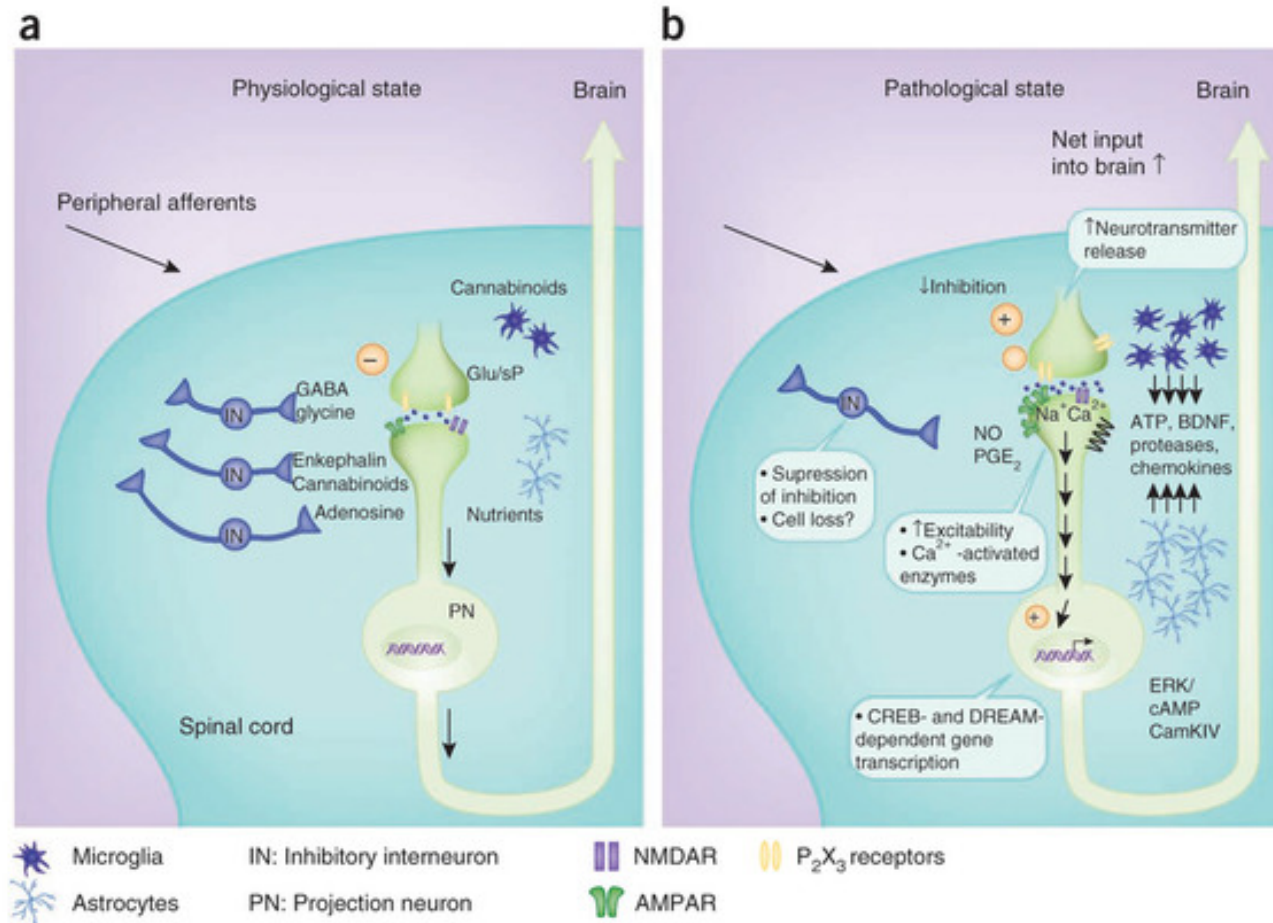


- ◆ Potential mechanisms:
 - NMDA receptor activation^{1,2}
 - Decreased inhibition²
 - Microglial activation³
 - Altered gene expression in dorsal horn neurons⁴
 - Synaptic plasticity, reorganization⁴
- Further leading to thalamic and cortical changes^{4,5}

NMDA=*N*-methyl-D-aspartic acid.

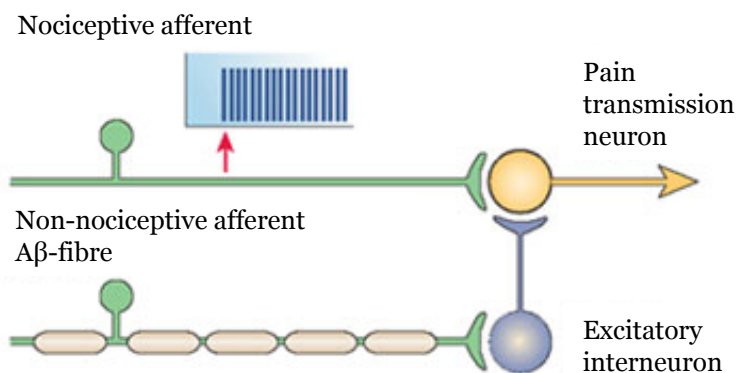
1. Mannion et al. *Clin J Pain* 2000;16(Suppl 3):S144-56. 2. Ossipov et al. *Ann NY Acad Sci* 2000;909:12-24.
3. Wieseler-Frank et al. *Neurosignals* 2005;14(4):166-74. 4. Navarro et al. *Prog Neurobiol* 2007;82(4):163-201.
5. Guilbaud et al. *Exp Brain Res* 1992;92(2):227-45.

Synaptic plasticity in spinal cord dorsal horn

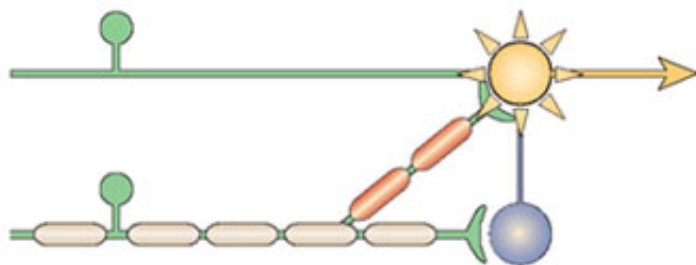


Changes in synaptic connectivity and loss of inhibition in spinal cord

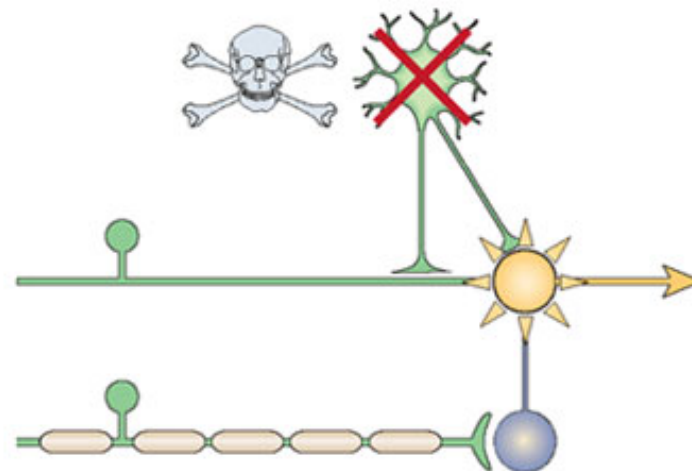
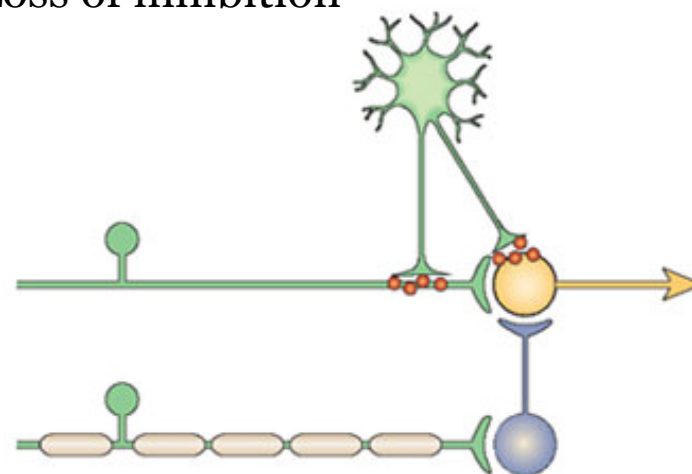
Changes in synaptic connectivity



Sprouting after nerve injury

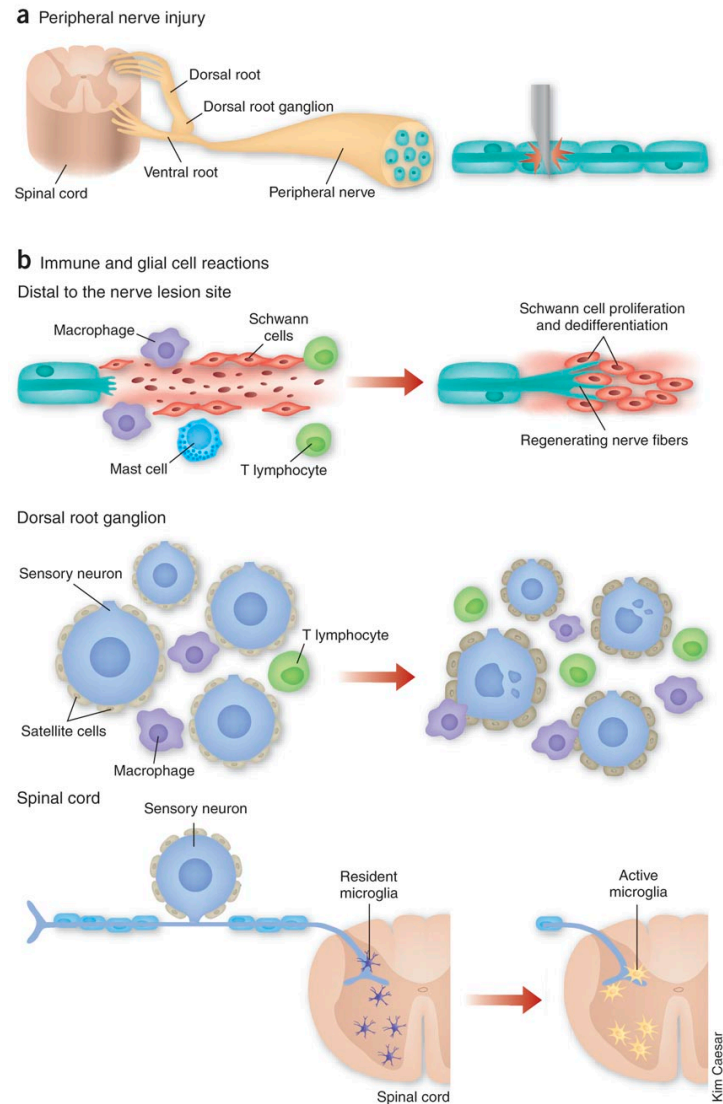


Loss of inhibition



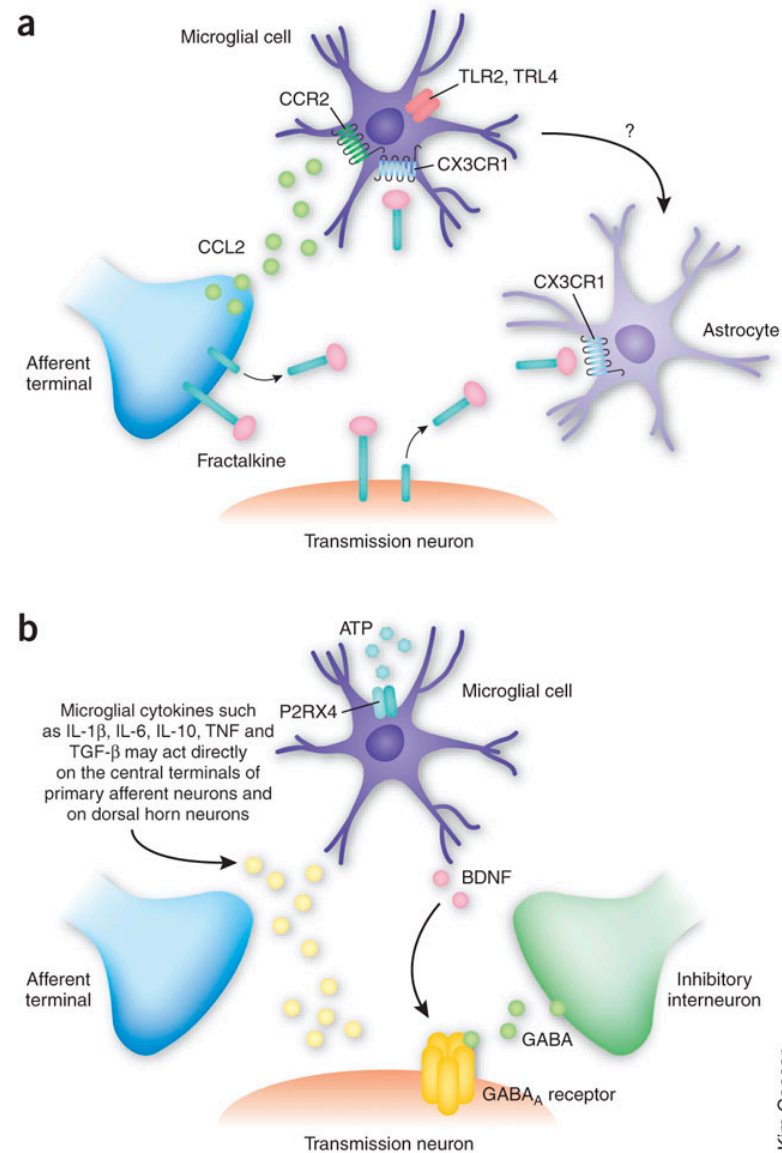
Immune and glial cell reactions

Peripheral nerve injury provokes recruitment and activation of immune cells at the site of nerve lesion, in the DRG and in the spinal cord.

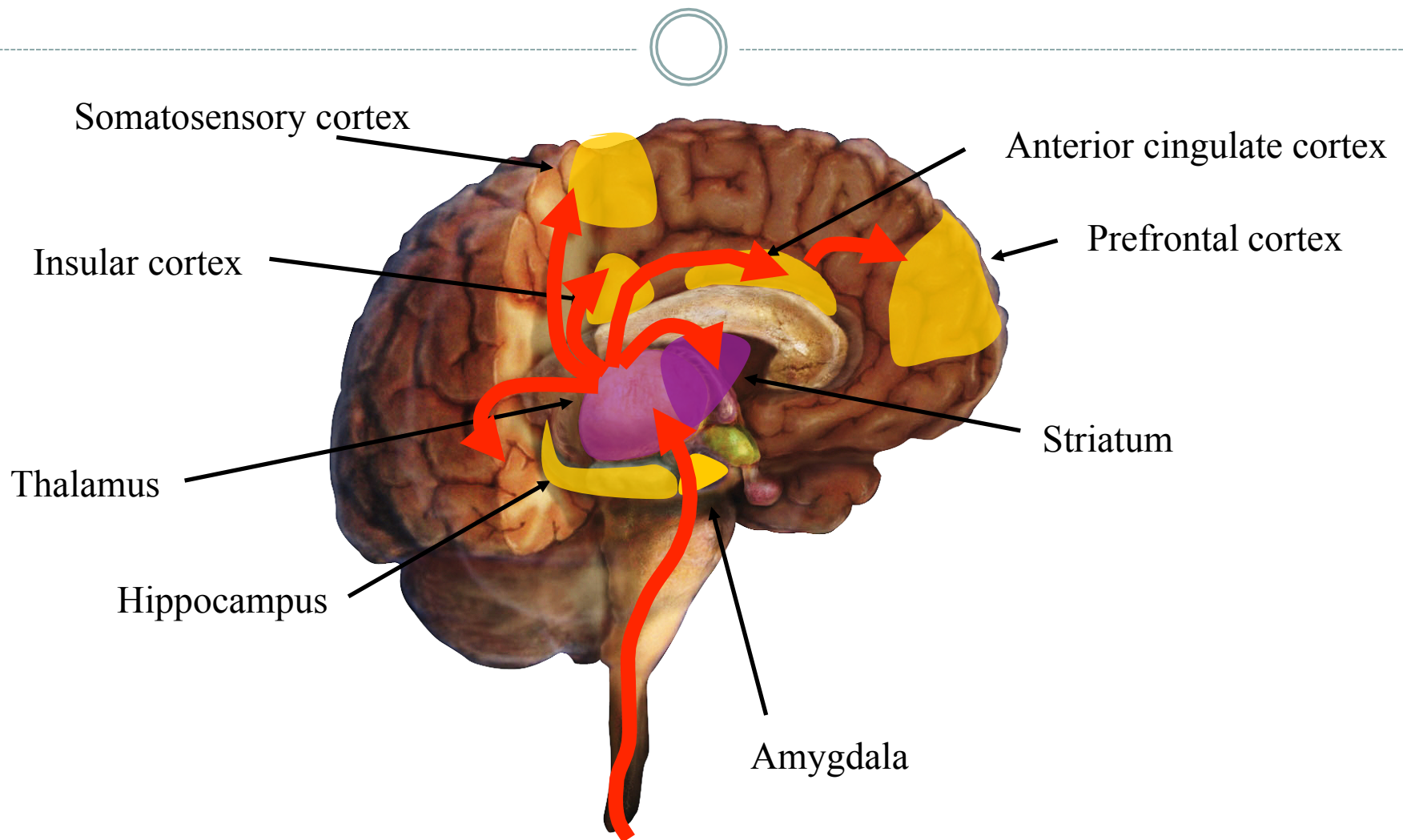


Glial-neuron interactions

Microglial cytokines may act directly on central terminals of primary afferents and dorsal horn neurons.



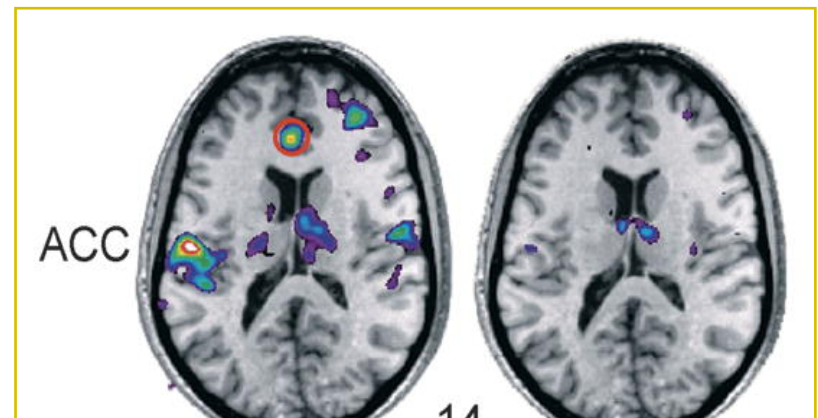
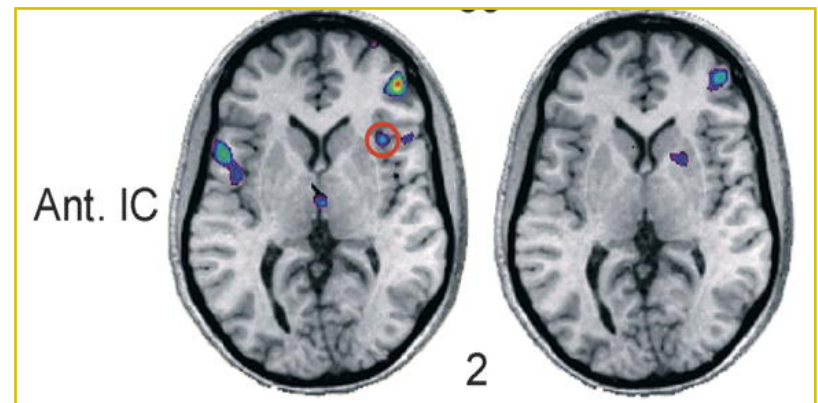
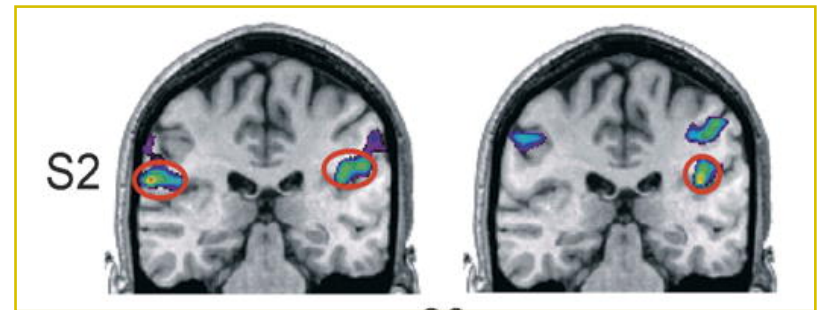
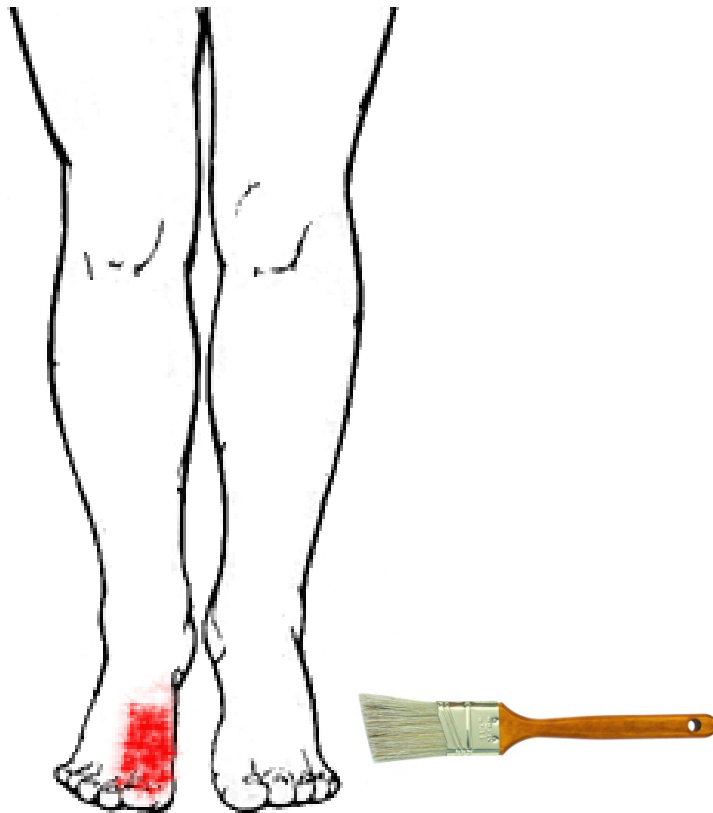
Central pain processing and modulation changes can occur at supraspinal levels



Evidence for enhanced pain processing in chronic pain disorders

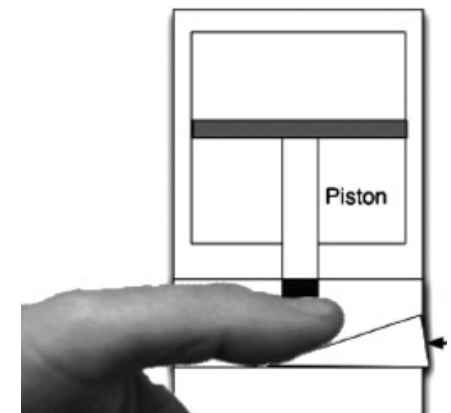
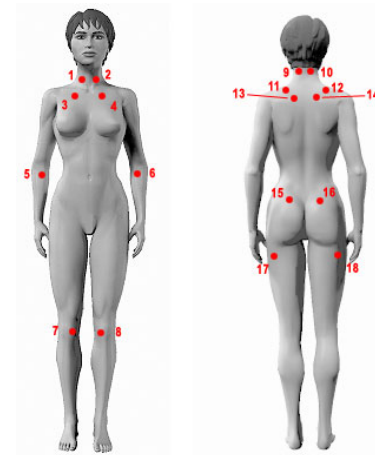
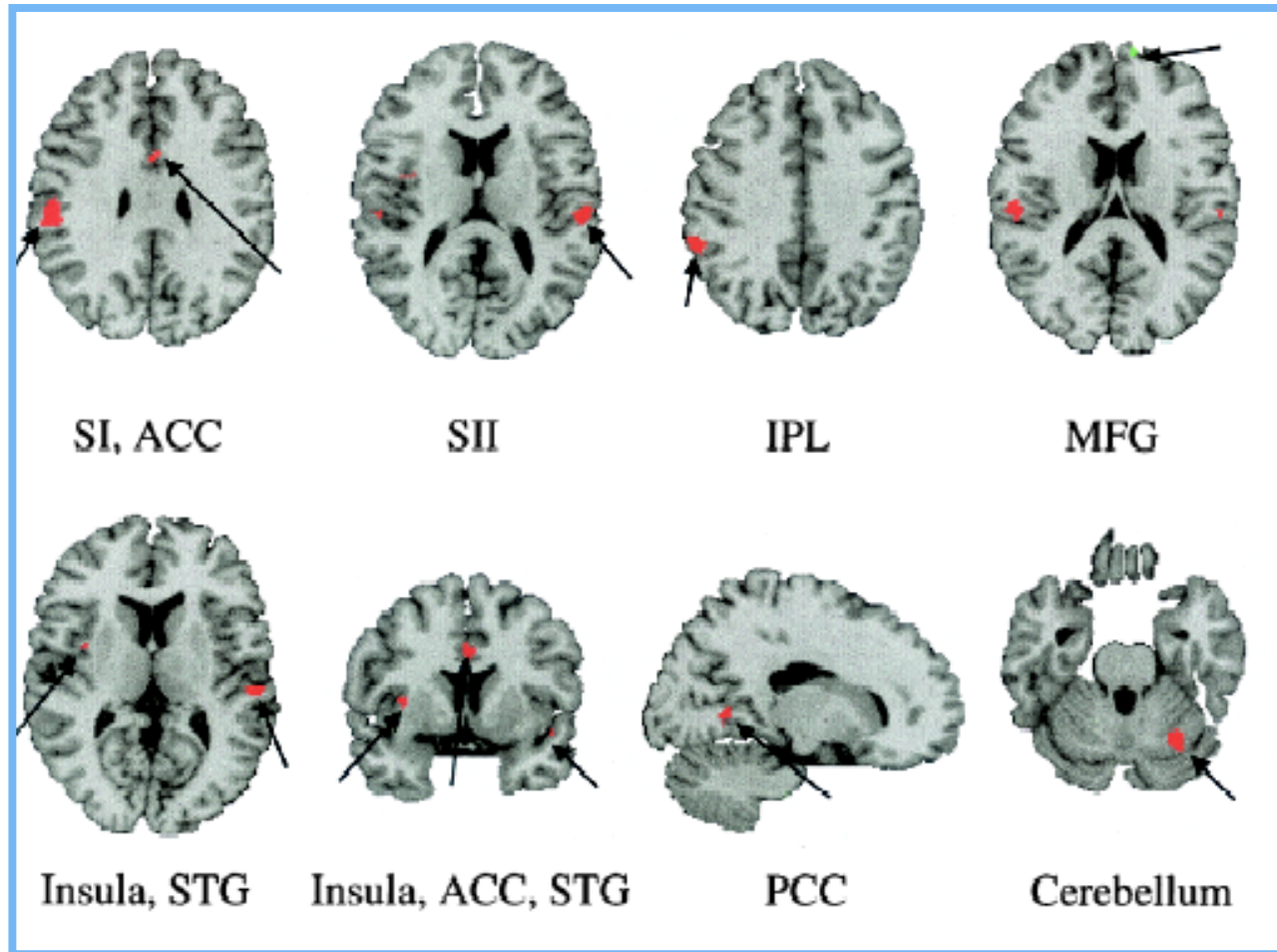


Allodynia related to neuropathic pain is reflected in brain



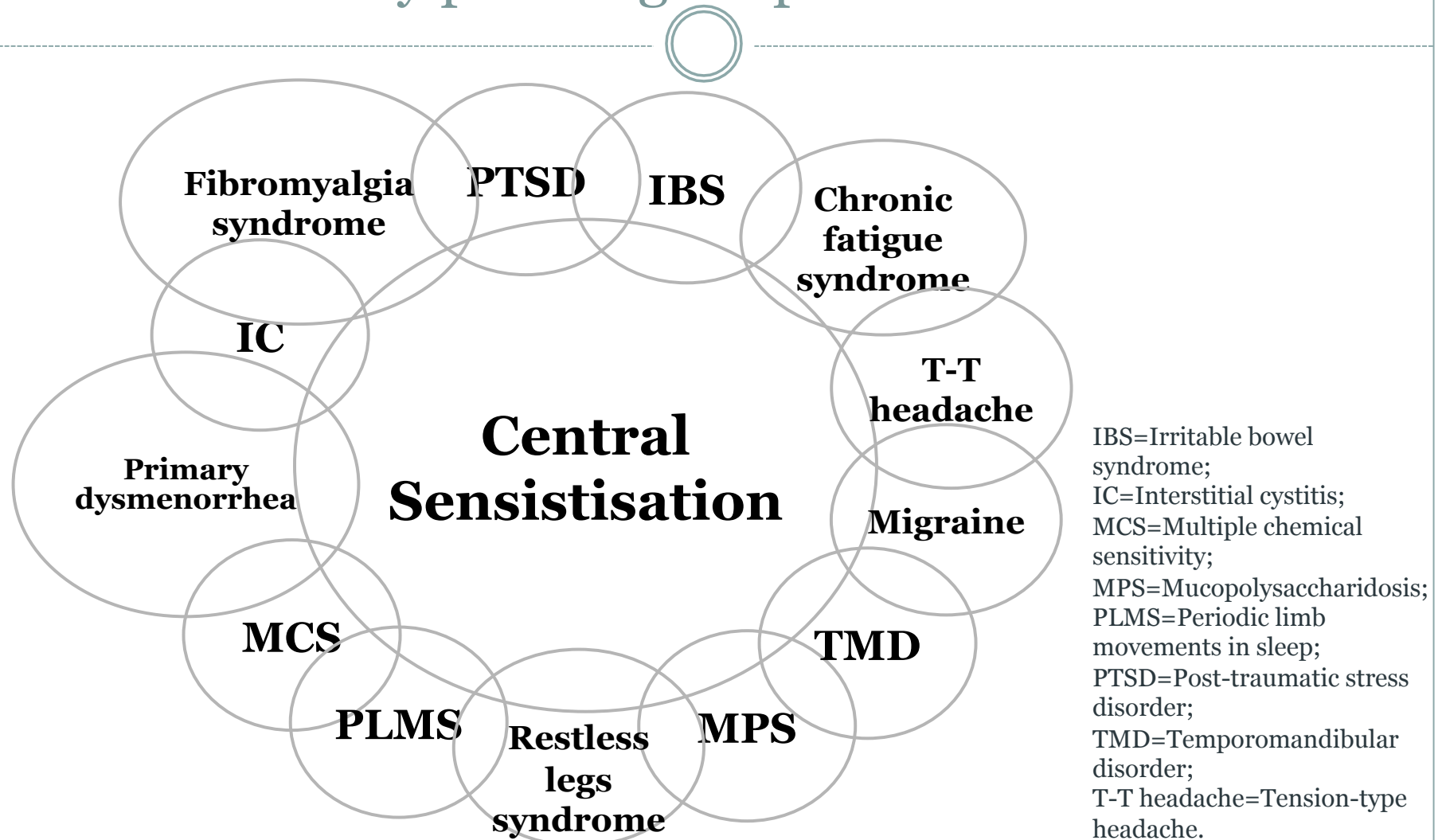
ACC: Anterior cingulate cortex; Ant: Anterior; IC: Insular cortex.
Hofbauer RK, et al. *Clin J Pain*. 2006;22:104–108.

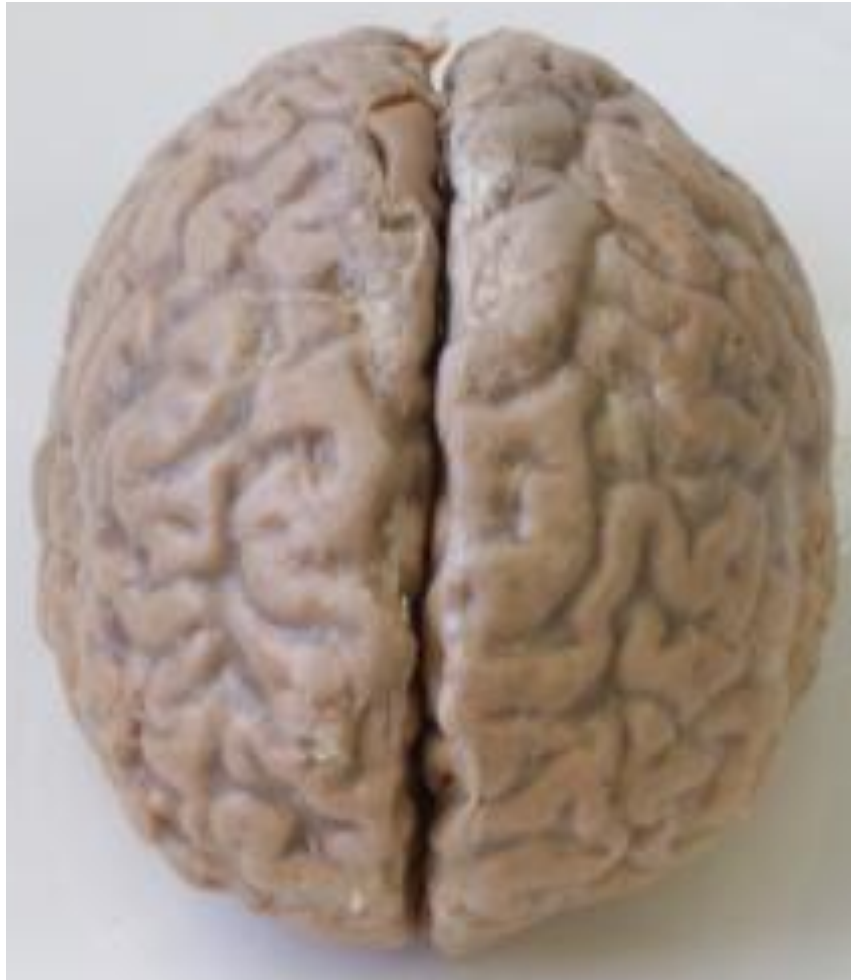
Increased activation to pressure with fibromyalgia



Gracely et al 2002

Central sensitization may play a key role in many pathological pain conditions

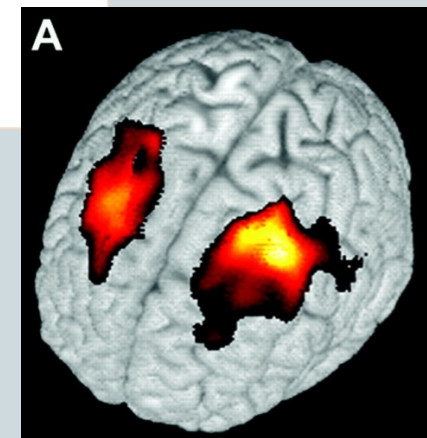
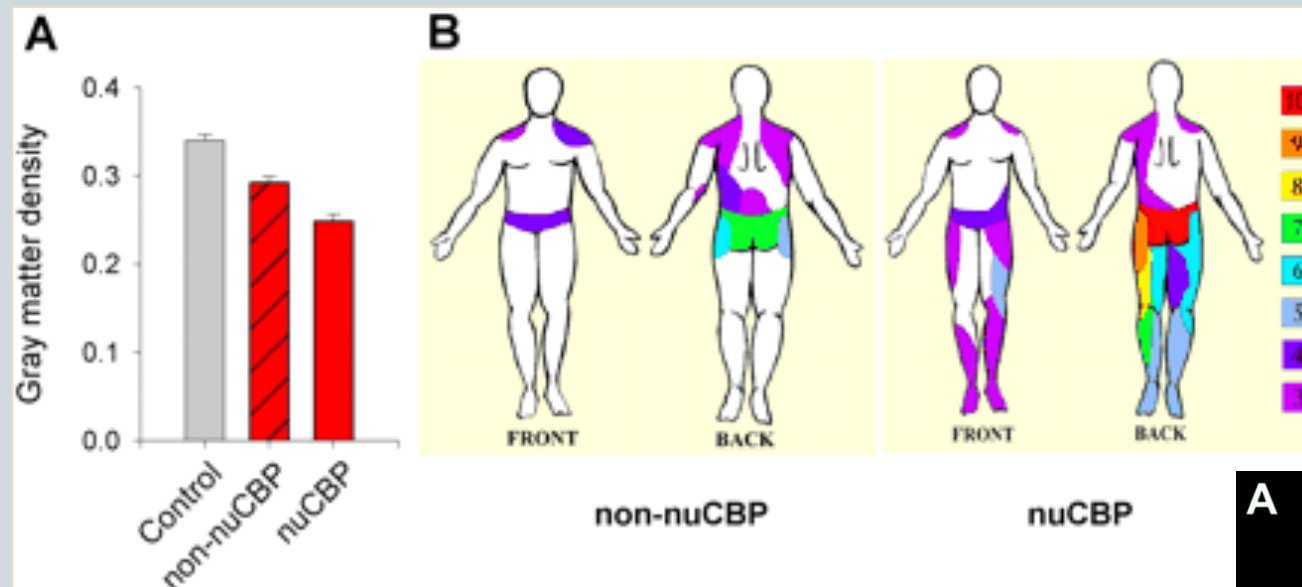




Chronic pain patients have changes in brain gray matter that might reflect changes in pain modulation¹⁻³

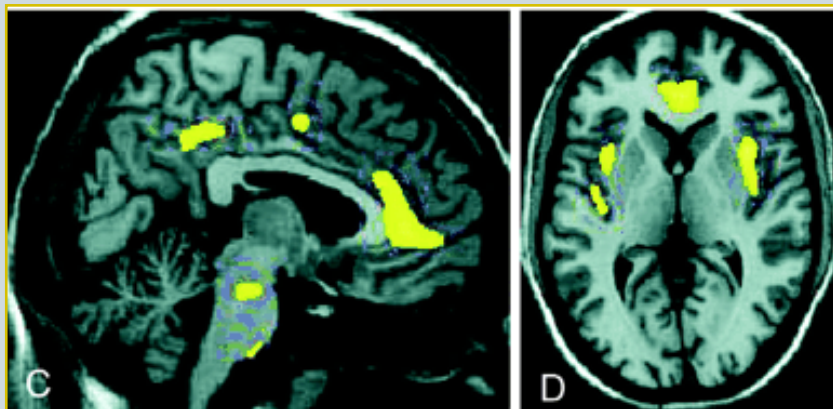
1. Apkarian AV, et al. *J Neurosci*. 2004;24:10410–10415.
2. Kuchinad A, et al. *J Neurosci*. 2007;27:1104–1107.
3. Davis KD, et al. *Neurology*. 2008;70:153–154.

Gray matter decreased first shown by Apkarian in back pain patients

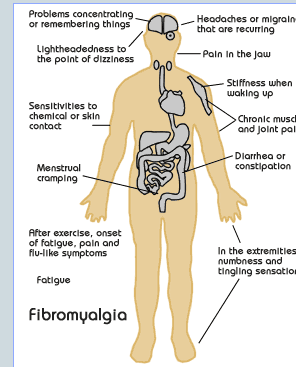


Similar findings with multiple chronic pain conditions

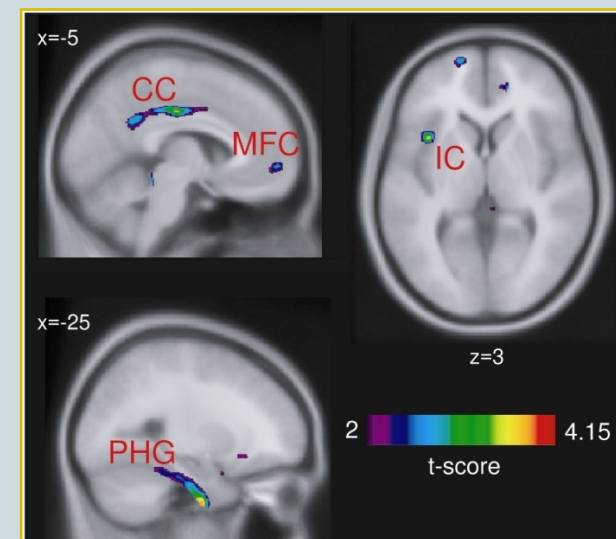
Gray matter decreases in chronic tension-type headache



Schmidt-Wilcke T, et al. *Neurology*. 2005;66:1483–1486.

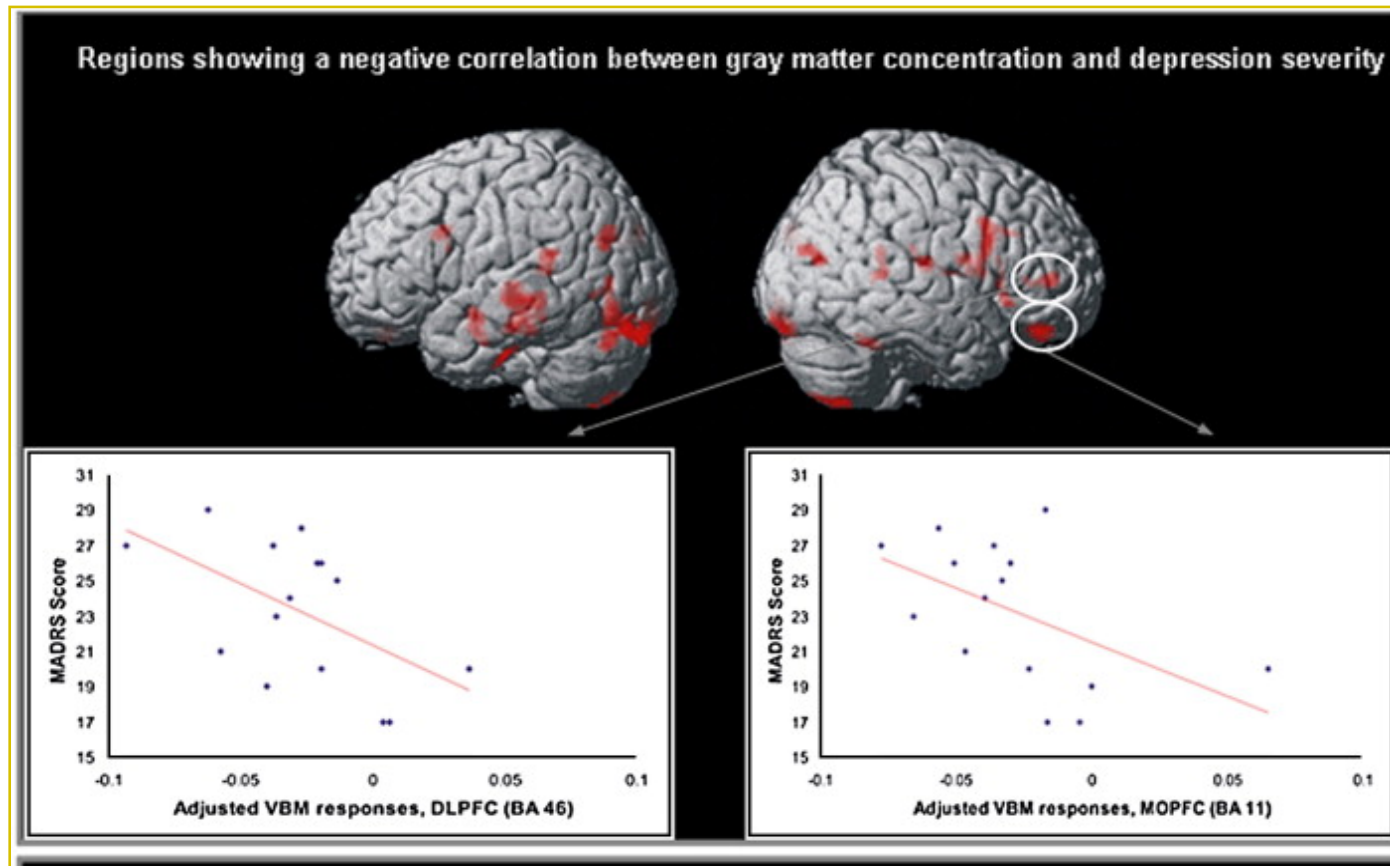


Gray matter decreases in fibromyalgia



Kuchinad A, et al. *J Neurosci*. 2007;404:1104–1107.

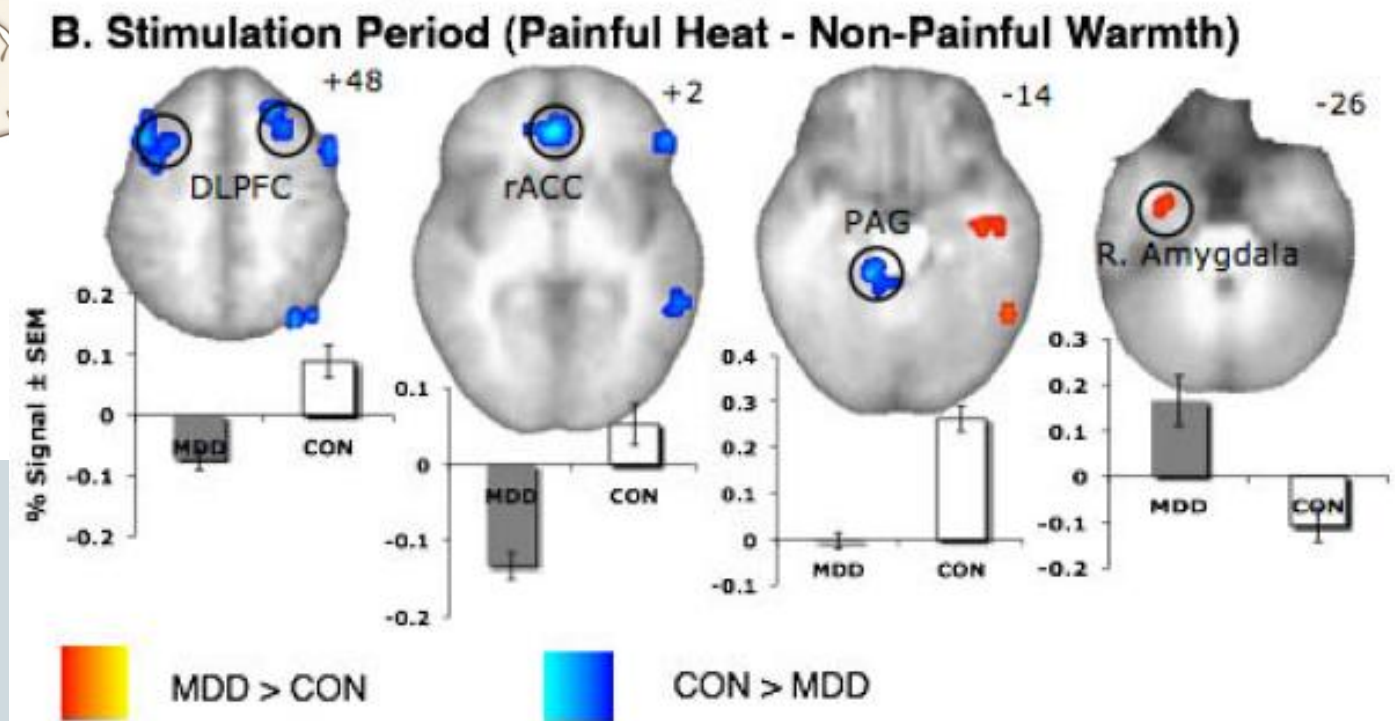
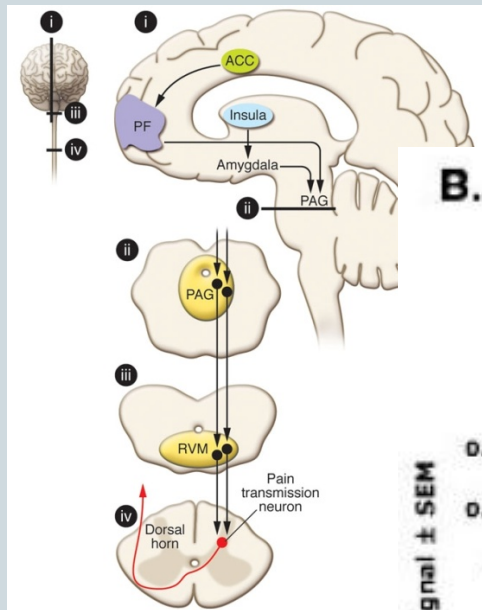
Similar gray matter changes in a variety of mood-related disorders



Depression

DLPFC: Dorsolateral prefrontal cortex; MOPFC: Medial and orbital prefrontal cortex.
Vasic N, et al. *J Affect Disord.* 2008;109:107–116.

Major depressive disorder associated with altered descending inhibition during pain

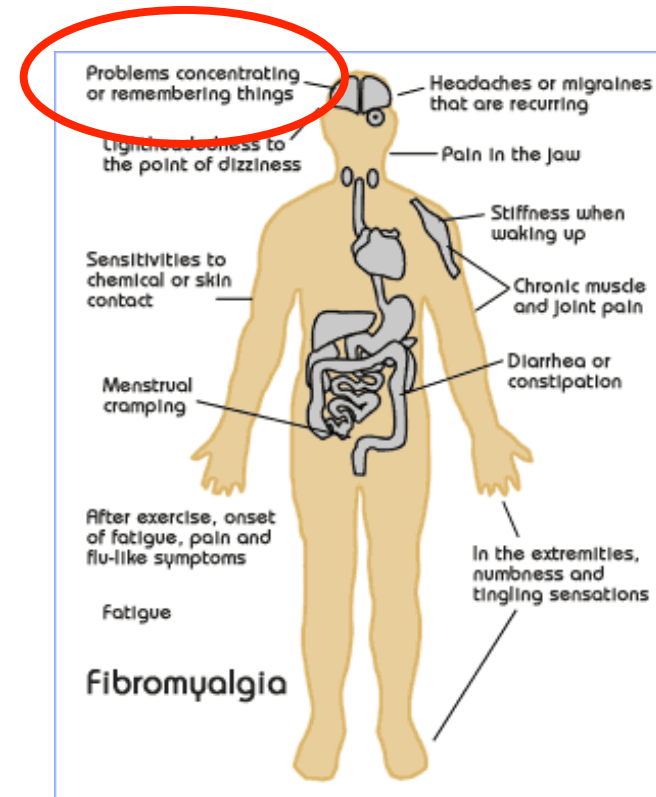
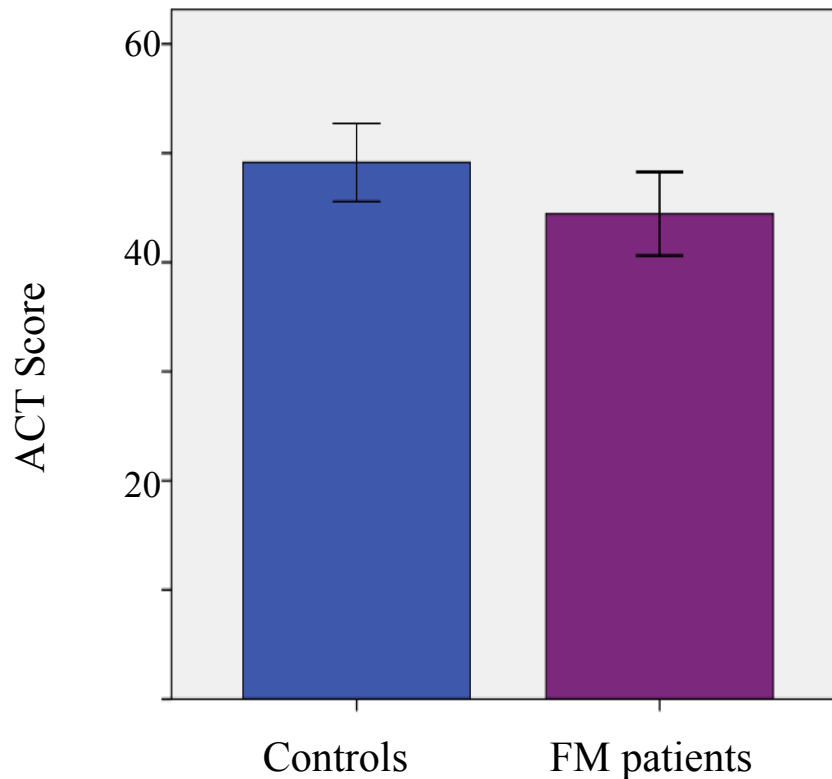


Strigo I et al, Arch Gen Psychiatry 65: 1275-1284, 2008.

What is the emotional/cognitive impact of brain changes in chronic pain?

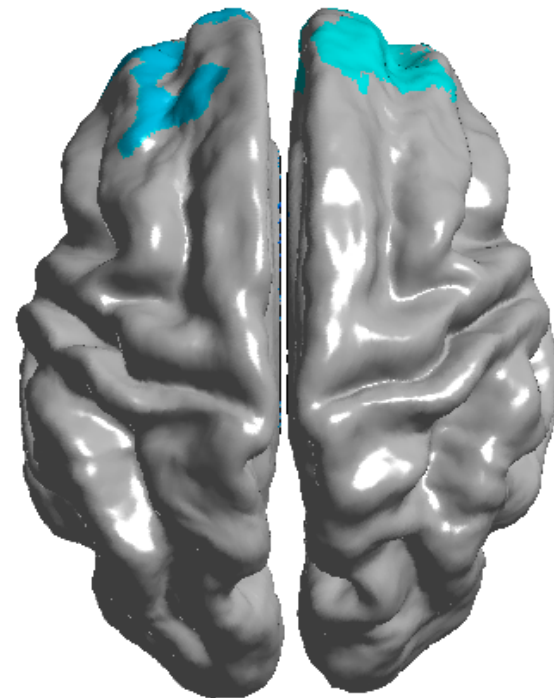
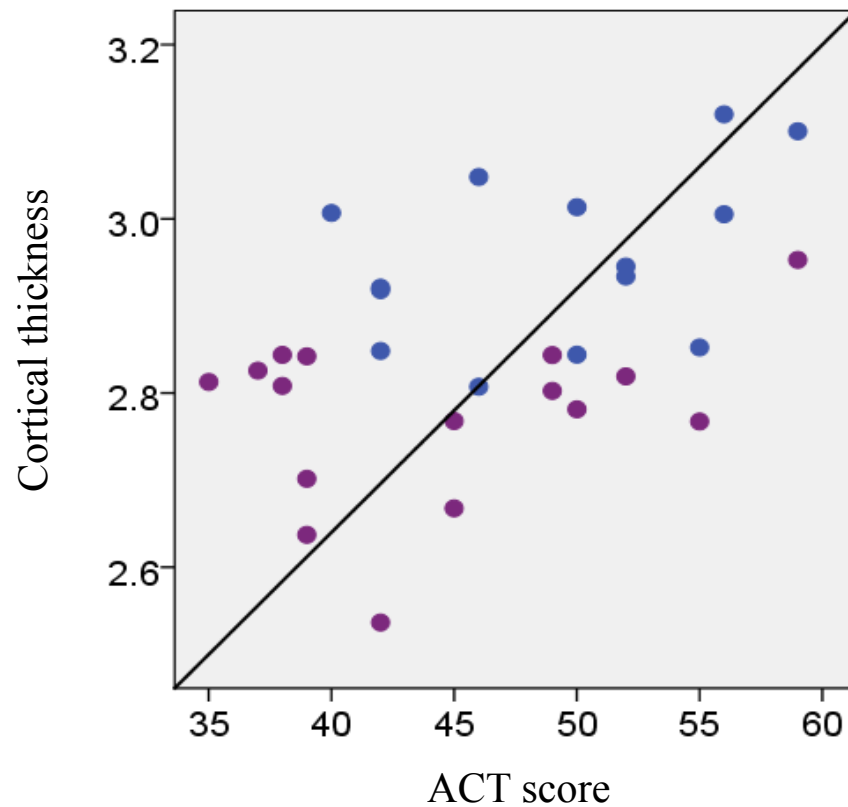


Working memory worse for FM patients

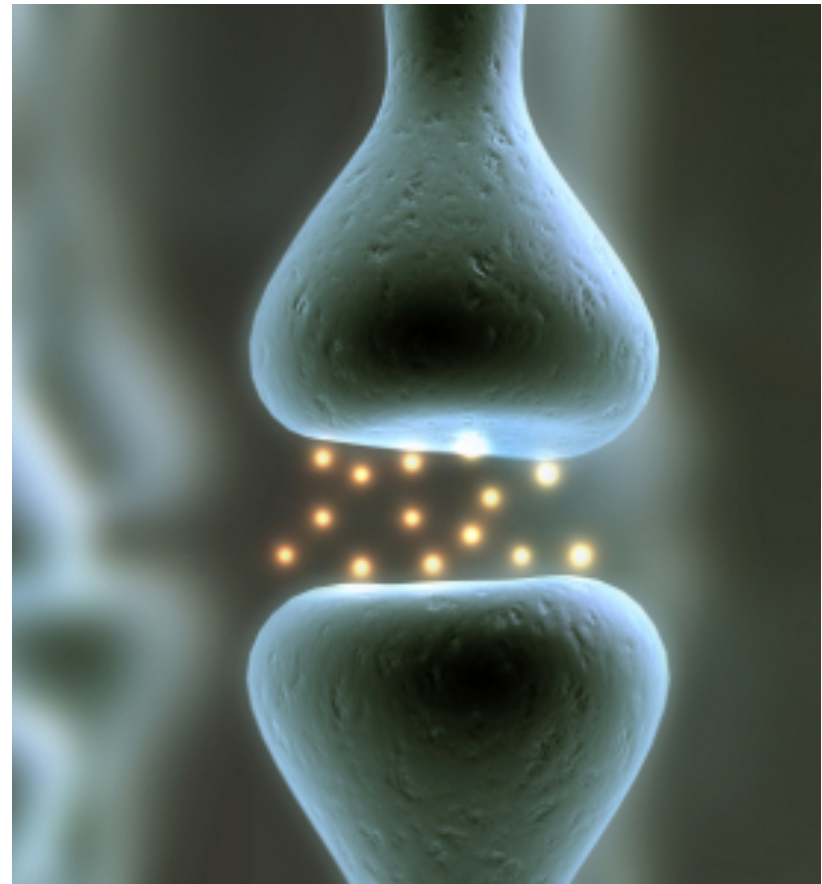


ACT test for working memory during distraction

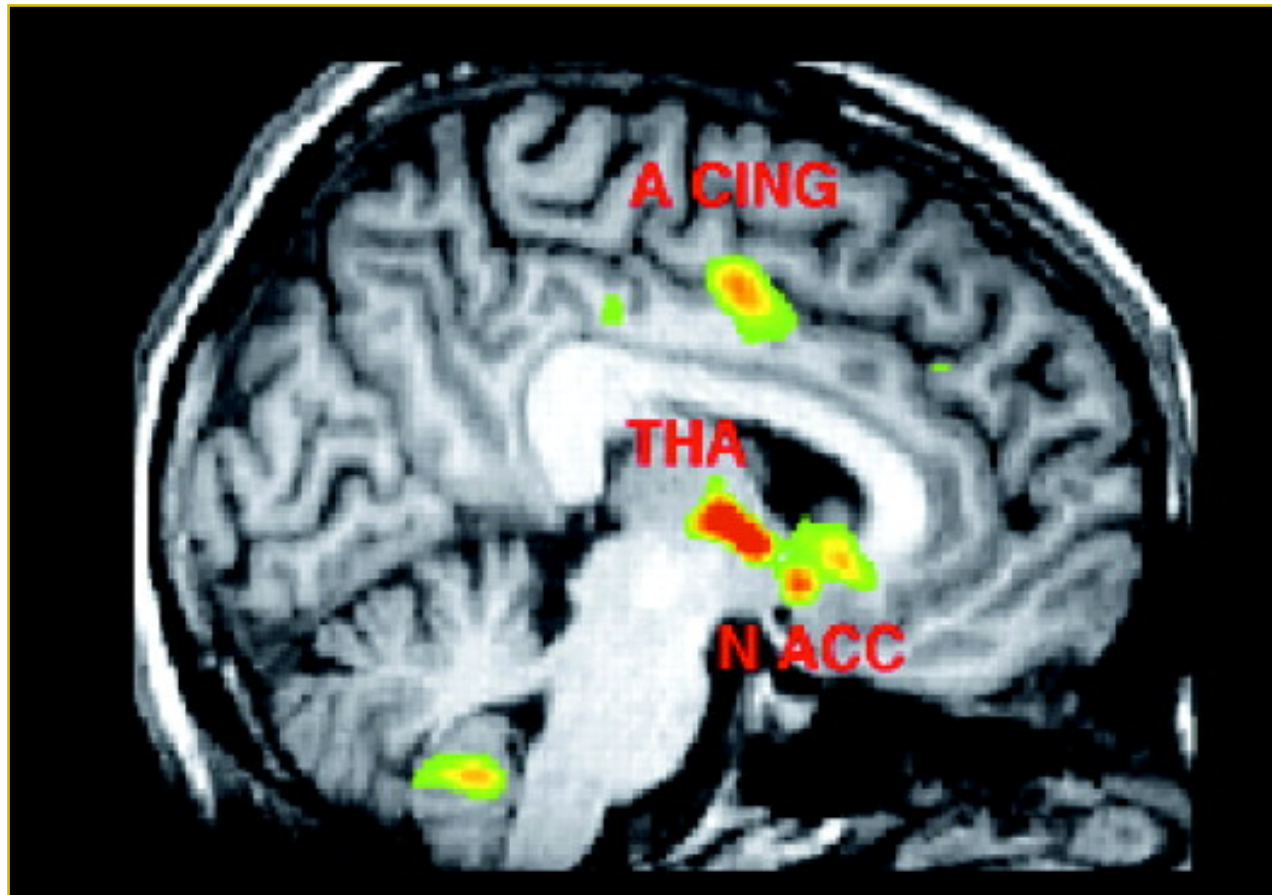
Working memory correlates with frontal cortex thickness



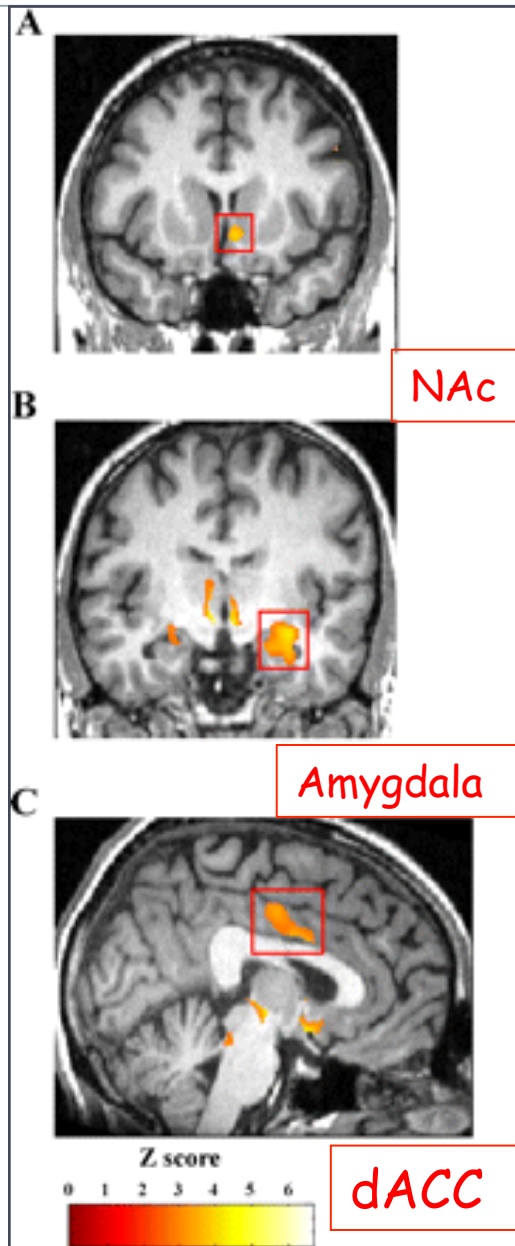
Some chronic pain patients show changes in forebrain neurotransmitter systems



Pain-related opiate binding in cingulate cortex, thalamus and nucleus accumbens



A CING: Anterior cingulate; N ACC: Nucleus accumbens; THA: Thalamus.
Zubieta J-R, et al. *Science*. 2001;293:311–315.



NAc

Amygdala

dACC



Fibromyalgia patients
have reduced
 μ -opioid binding
potential in pain-related
brain regions

Conclusions



- Pain is a multidimensional experience that can be transformed from adaptive to a disease state.
- Pain transmission involves peripheral, spinal, and forebrain processing; pain perception is modulated from descending pathways that may have either facilitatory or inhibitory effects.
- Psychological state can have a profound effect on pain perception and associated neural activation.
- Neuroplastic alterations in the CNS can result in sensitization and an imbalance between modulatory descending facilitatory and inhibitory pathways.
- Long-term pain can alter brain anatomy and associated emotions and cognitive function.
- Chronic pain patients may have alterations in forebrain opioid systems

There are 3 levels of pain:
Pain, excruciating pain, and
stepping on a Lego.





Fibromyalgia is a constant state of perceived physical and existential suffering in the absence of any observable physical cause

© Marianne Brough

Non-Musculoskeletal Fibromyalgia Symptoms	Frequency (mean)	Frequency (range)
Fatigue	86%	75-92%
Non-restorative sleep	78%	75-80%
Paresthesia	54%	26-74%
Self-report anxiety	62%	48-72%
Self-report depression	34%	31-37%
Memory decline	70.2%	
Mental confusion	56.1%	
Speech difficulty	40.4%	
Headaches	53%	44-56%
Dysmenorrhea	43%	40-45%
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	40%	30-53%
Restless leg syndrome	31%	
Sicca	15%	12-18%
Female urethral syndrome	12%	

Yunus, et al. Semin Arthritis Rheum. 1981 Aug;11(1):151-71.

1) Widespread Pain Index (WPI): Note the number areas in which the patient has had pain over the last week. In how many areas has the patient had pain?

☐ Shoulder Girdle, Lt

☐ Upper Arm, Lt

☐ Lower Arm, Lt

☐ Hip (buttock, trochanter), Lt

☐ Upper Leg, Lt

☐ Lower Leg, Lt

☐ Jaw, Lt

☐ Chest

☐ Upper Back

☐ Neck

WPI Score (0 – 19): _____

☐ Shoulder Girdle, Rt.

☐ Upper Arm, Rt

☐ Lower Arm, Rt

☐ Hip (buttock, trochanter), Rt

☐ Upper Leg, Rt

☐ Lower Leg, Rt

☐ Jaw, Rt

☐ Abdomen

☐ Lower Back

2a) Symptoms Severity Score (SS): Patient Impression

For the each of the three symptoms below, indicate the level of severity over the **past week** using the following scale:

0 = No problem

1 = Slight or mild problems; generally mild or intermittent

2 = Moderate; considerable problems; often present and/or at a moderate level

3 = Severe: pervasive, continuous, life-disturbing problems

Fatigue (0 – 3): _____

Waking unrefreshed (0 – 3): _____

Cognitive symptoms (0 – 3): _____

2b) Symptoms Severity Score (SS): Physician Impression

Considering somatic symptoms in general, indicate whether the patient has:

0 = No symptoms

1 = Few symptoms

2 = A moderate number

3 = A great deal of symptoms

Physician Impression Score (0 – 3): _____

Total Symptoms Severity Score (SS) (0 – 12): _____

Meets 2010 ACR Criteria: ☐ **Yes** ($WPI \geq 7$ and $SS \geq 5$)

Fibromyalgia Severity Score (0 – 31): _____

☐ **Yes** ($WPI = 3-6$ and $SS \geq 9$)

Fibromyalgia Severity Score = WPI score + SS score

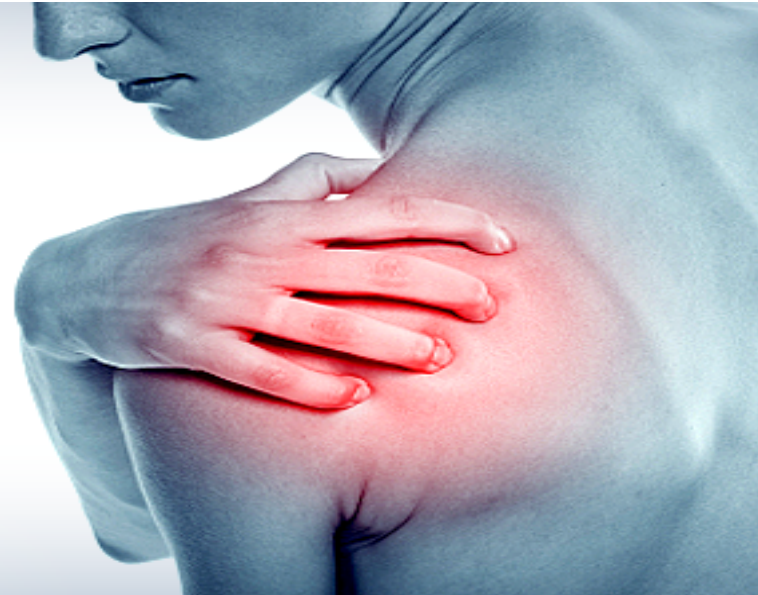
☐ **No**

The fibromyalgia concept has evolved from the archetypal functional pain disorder to a multi-symptom disorder in which pain is only one, if not the most prominent, of many symptoms.

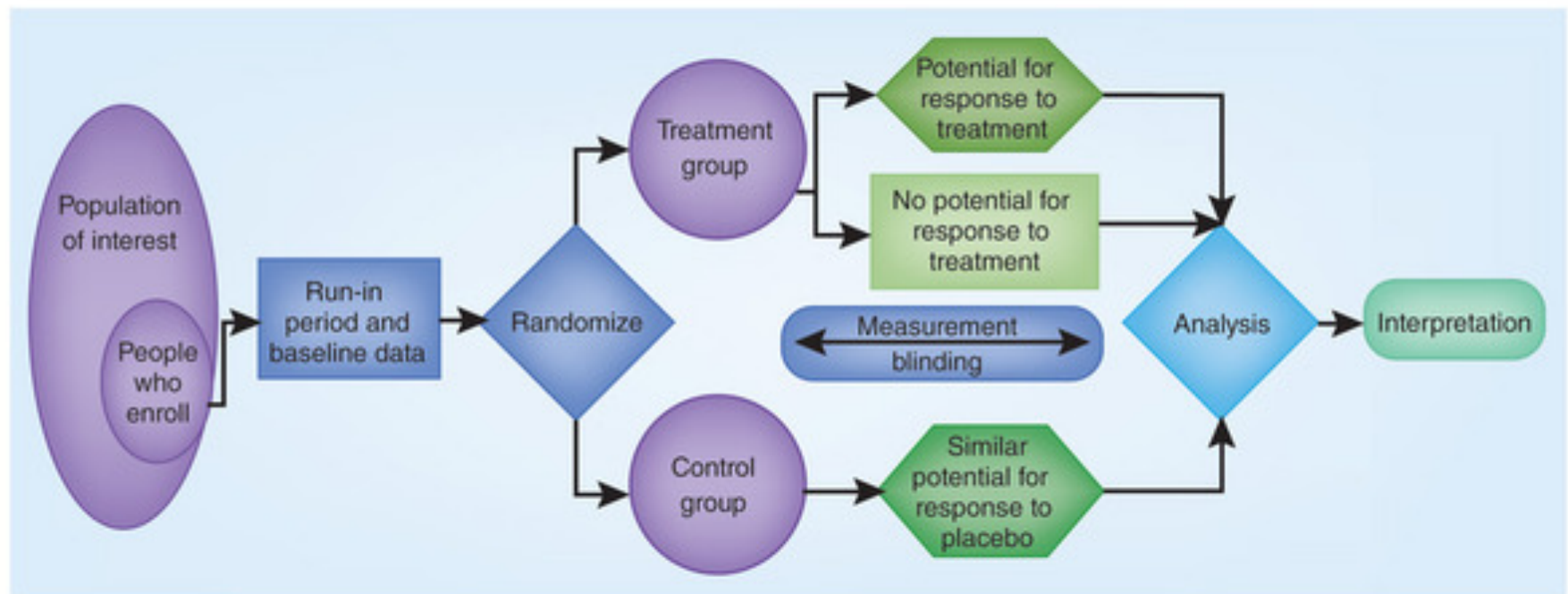
Central sensitization is an “increase in the excitability of the central nervous system so that normal inputs now evoke exaggerated responses”.

Can we successfully treat fibromyalgia by medically altering central sensitization?

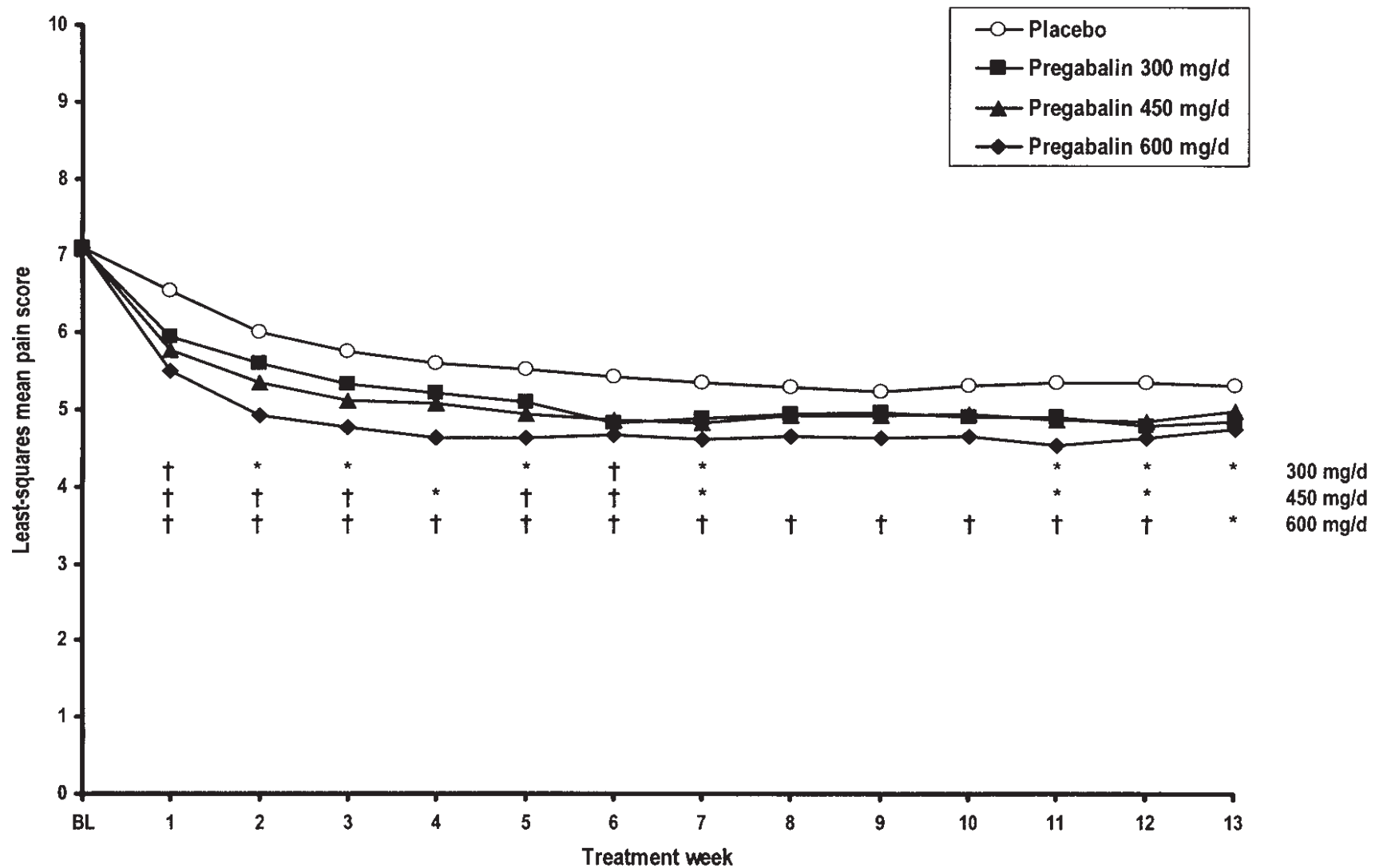
DRUGS FOR FIBROMYALGIA PAIN



Double Blind Placebo Controlled Trials

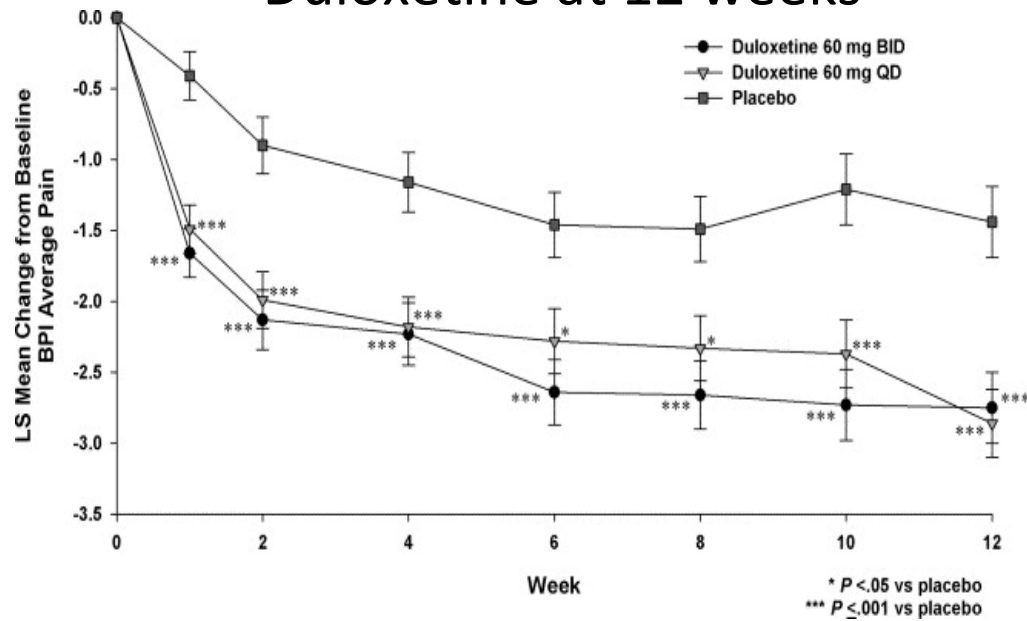


Pregabalin at 13 weeks



A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled, Phase III Trial of Pregabalin in the Treatment of Patients with Fibromyalgia: PHILIP J. MEASE, I. JON RUSSELL, LESLEY M. ARNOLD, HANA FLORIAN, JAMES P. YOUNG Jr, SUSAN A. MARTIN, and UMA SHARMA

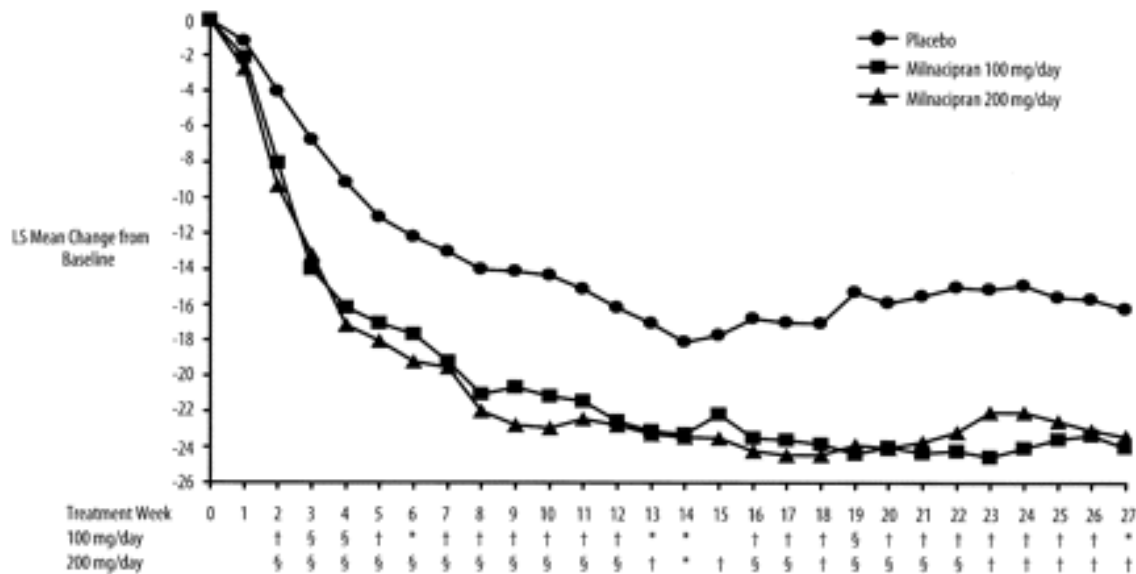
Duloxetine at 12 weeks



A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of duloxetine in the treatment of women with fibromyalgia with or without major depressive disorder. Arnold LM, Rosen A, Pritchett YL, D'Souza DN, Goldstein DJ, Iyengar S, Wernicke JF Pain. 2005 Dec 15;119(1-3):5-15.



Milnacipran at 3 months



The efficacy and safety of milnacipran for treatment of fibromyalgia. a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Mease PJ, Clauw DJ, Gendreau RM, Rao SG, Kranzler J, Chen W, Palmer RH. J Rheumatol. 2009 Feb;36(2):398-409.

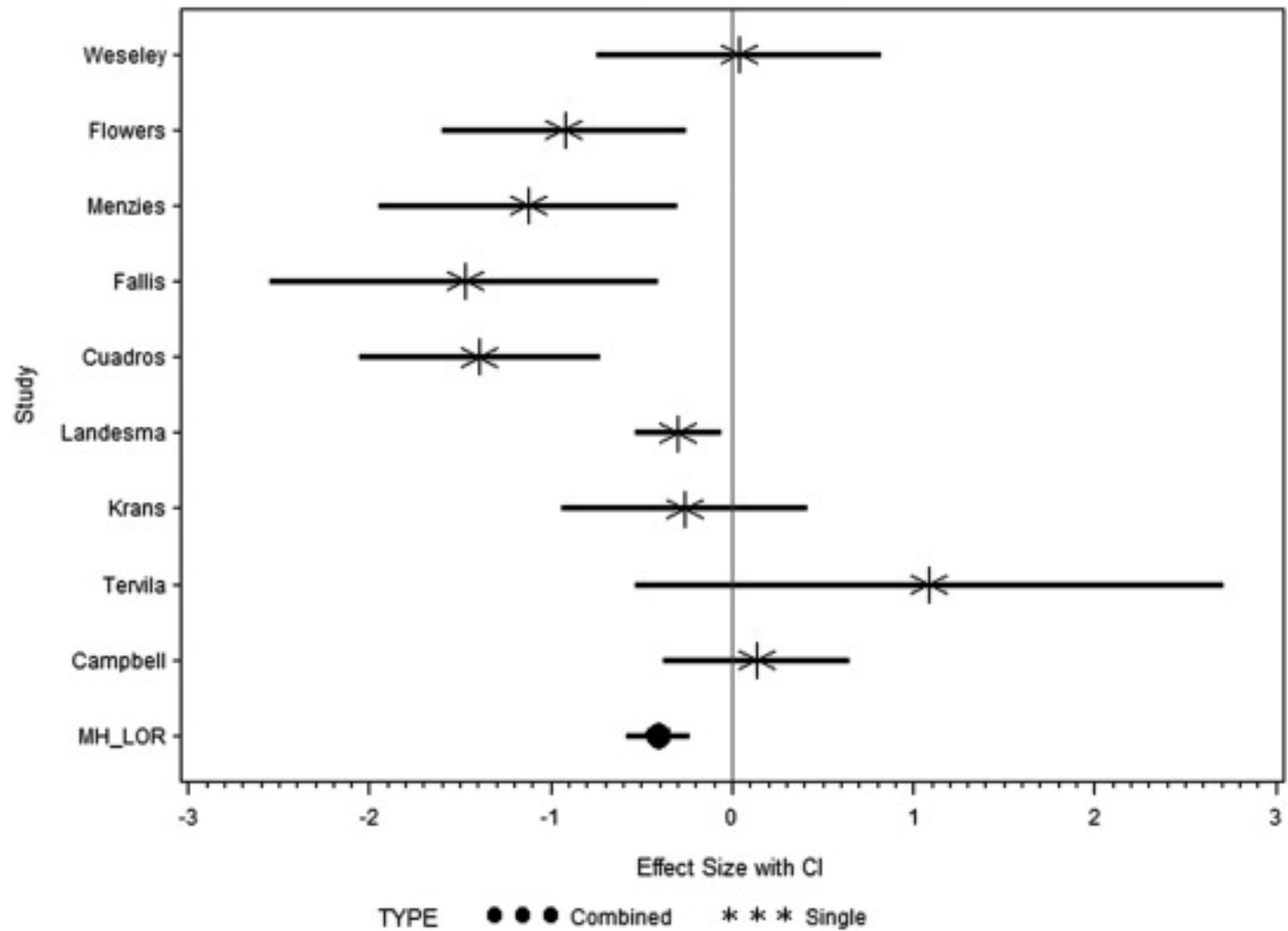


~\$253.4 million on fibromyalgia medication advertising in Q1-3 in 2008
~\$307 million in fibromyalgia sales for pregabalin (2007-2008)
~\$279 million in fibromyalgia sales for duloxetine (2007-2008)

(Datamonitor 2009)

Forest Plot

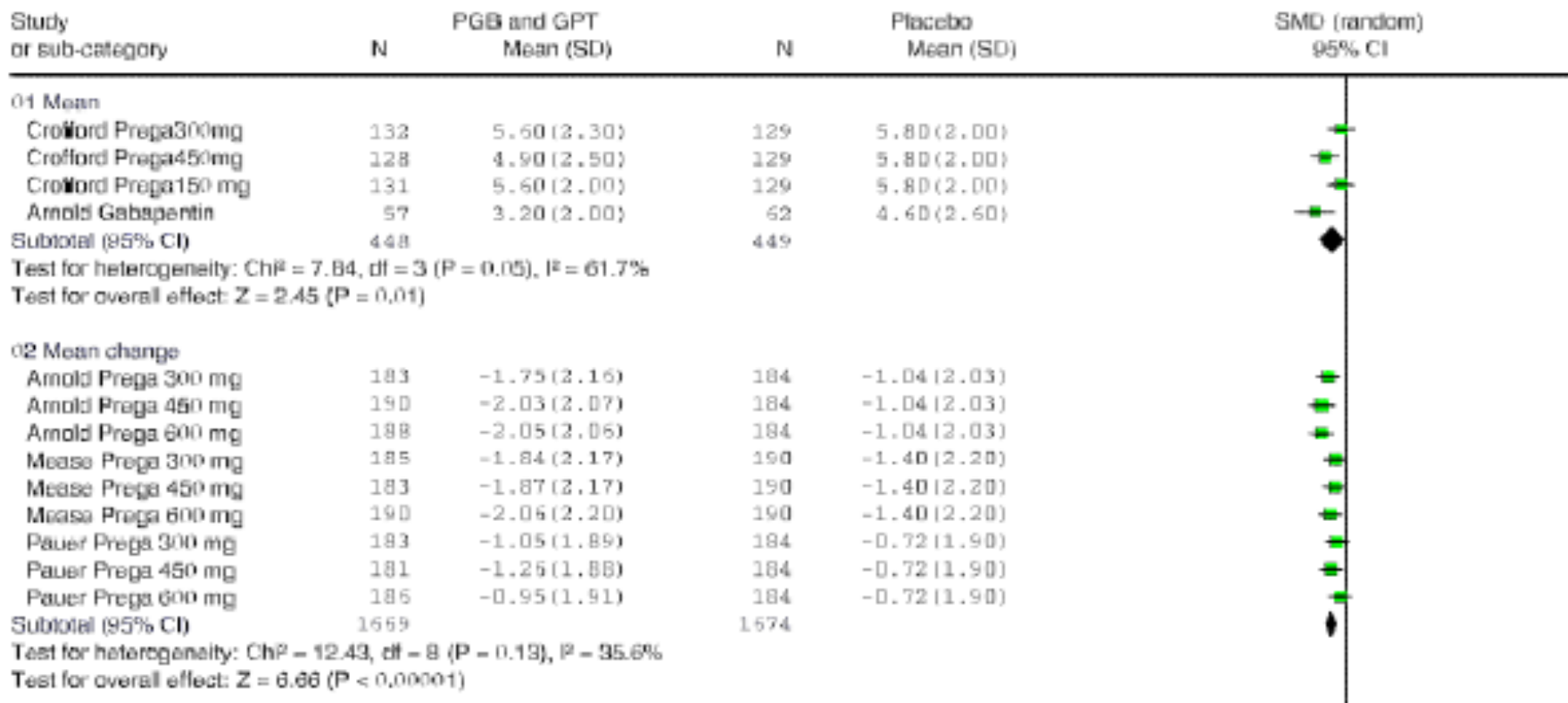
Mantel-Haenszel Log Odds Ratio Analysis



Treatment of fibromyalgia syndrome with gabapentin and pregabalin--a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.

[Häuser W](#), [Bernardy K](#), [Uçeyler N](#), [Sommer C](#).

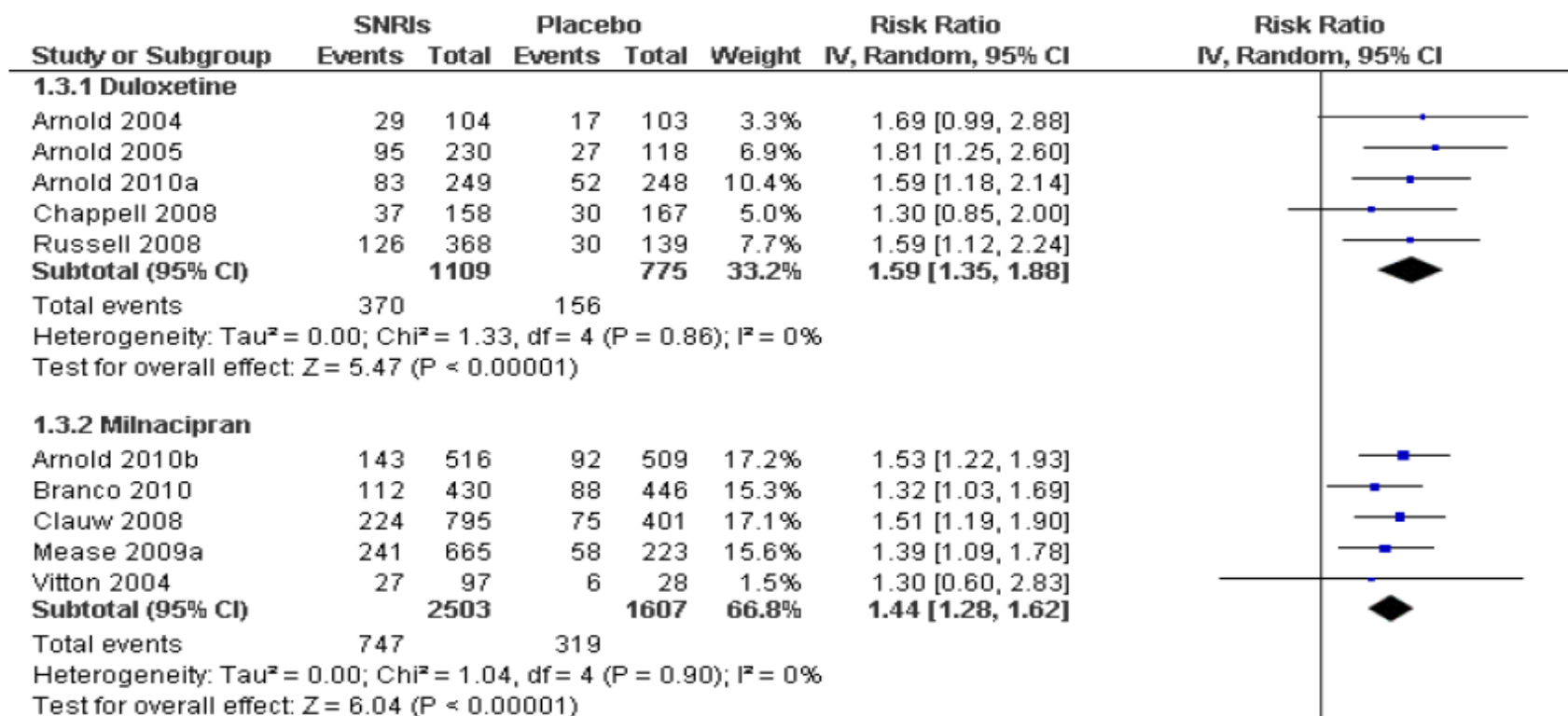
Review: Efficacy of gabapentin and pregabalin in fibromyalgia syndrome (Version 02)
 Comparison: 01 Pregabalin and gabapentin versus placebo
 Outcome: 01 Pain



Standard Mean Difference in Pain: -.27 (Cohen's: small effect on pain)
 Number Needed to Treat: 12 Number Needed to Harm: 12

Serotonin and noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) for fibromyalgia syndrome

Winfried Häuser¹, Gerard Urrútia², Sera Tort³, Nurcan Üçeyler⁴, Brian Walitt⁵



Standard Mean Difference in Pain: -.23 (Cohen's: small effect on pain)

Number Needed to Treat: 11

Number Needed to Harm: 11

Population Studies



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Longitudinal patterns of analgesic and central acting drug use and associated effectiveness in fibromyalgia

F. Wolfe¹, B.T. Walitt², R.S. Katz³, Y.C. Lee⁴, K.D. Michaud⁵, W. Häuser⁶

- 3,123 patients with fibromyalgia who participated in a longitudinal study from 2000 to 2011
- 19, 201 semiannual self-report assessments
- All medications measured
- Outcomes: pain, fatigue, physical function
- Analyses:
 - Longitudinal generalized estimating equations (GEE)
 - Sub-analyses of those treated with new central acting drugs (NCAD)

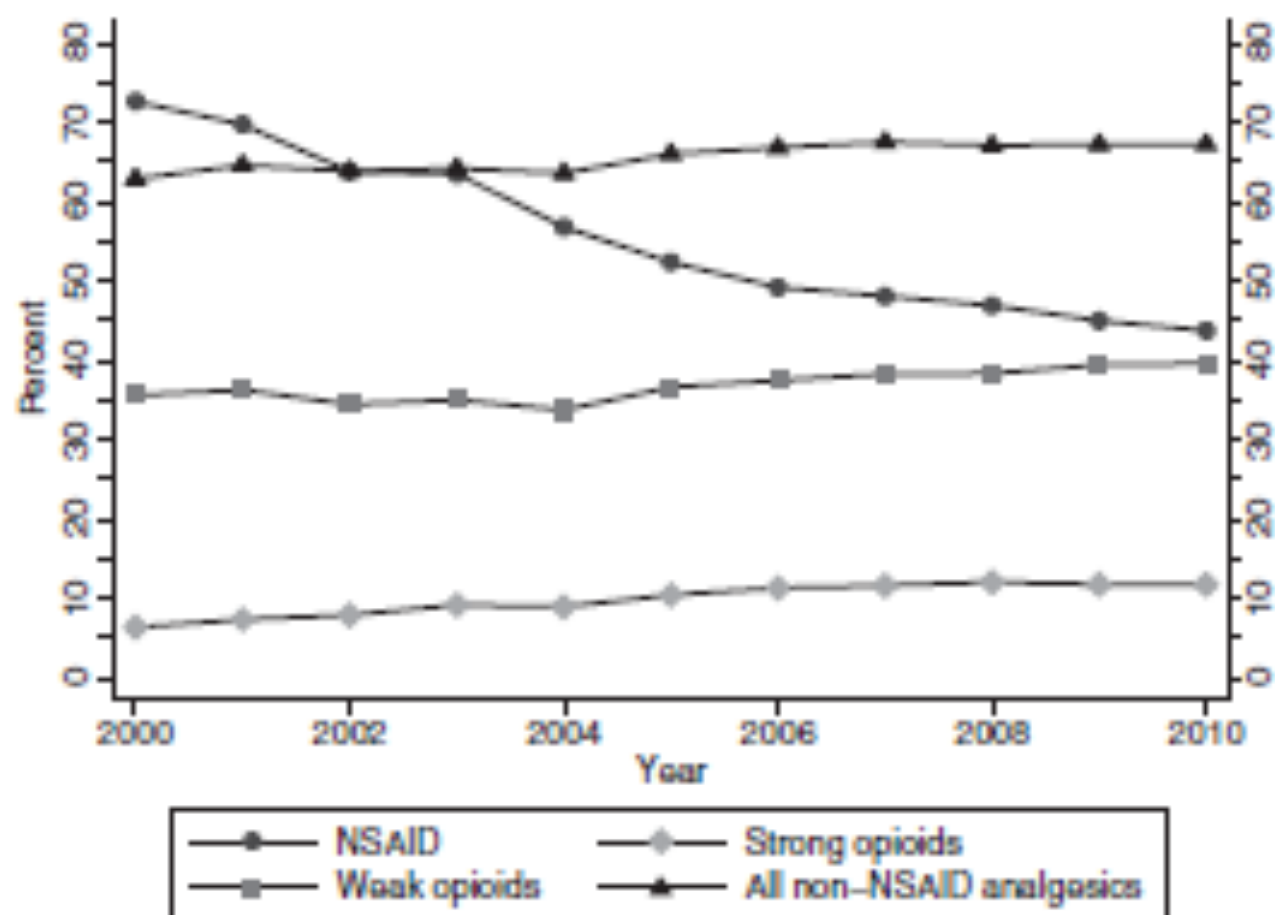


Figure 1 Severity-adjusted percentages of patients using analgesic drugs in 2000–2010. NSAID, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

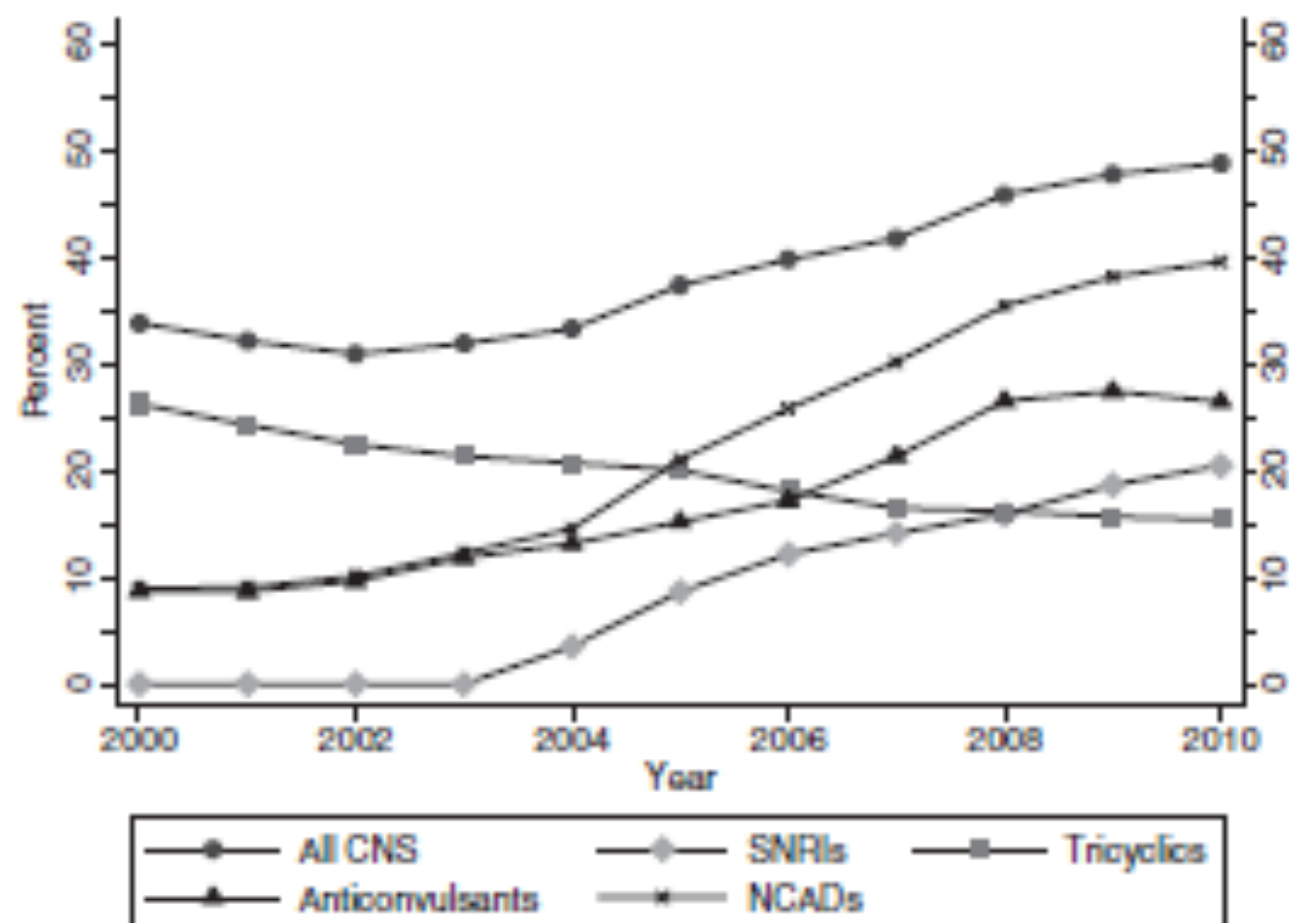


Figure 2 Severity-adjusted percentages of patients using centrally acting drugs in 2000–2010. CNS, central nervous system; NCAD, new central acting drug; SNRI, serotonin–norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor.

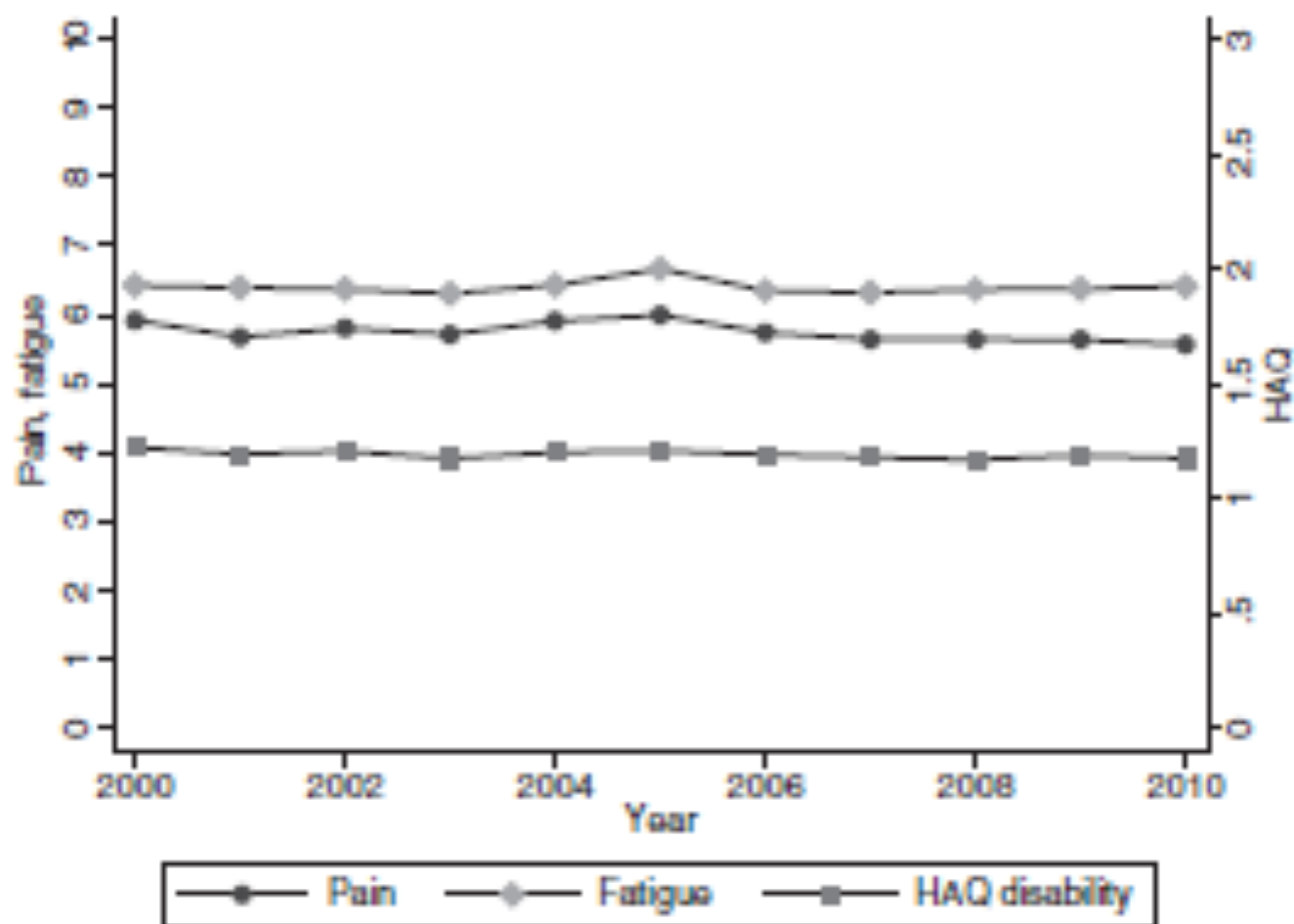


Figure 3 Adjusted mean pain, fatigue and Health Assessment Questionnaire (HAQ) scores of fibromyalgia study patients in 2000–2010.

Table 2 Effect of treatment with NCAD on fibromyalgia outcomes.

Variable	<i>n</i>	Group	Pre NCAD ^a Mean (95% CI)	On + Post CAD ^a Mean (95% CI)	Difference (95% CI)	<i>p</i> -value
Pain	508	With >0 NCAD	6.21 (6.09, 6.32)	6.04 (5.90, 6.18)	-0.17 (-0.30, -0.03)	0.014
	344	With >1 NCAD	6.22 (6.08, 6.36)	5.99 (5.83, 6.15)	-0.23 (-0.39, -0.08)	0.002
Fatigue	508	With >0 NCAD	6.64 (6.52, 6.76)	6.61 (6.46, 6.76)	-0.03 (-0.17, 0.10)	0.635
	344	With >1 NCAD	6.34 (6.49, 6.78)	6.57 (6.39, 6.74)	-0.07 (-0.22, 0.08)	0.370
HAQ	508	With >0 NCAD	1.28 (1.26, 1.30)	1.30 (1.27, 1.34)	0.02 (-0.01, 0.05)	0.126
	344	With >1 NCAD	1.28 (1.26, 1.31)	1.29 (1.25, 1.33)	0.01 (-0.02, 0.04)	0.609

NCAD: new centrally acting drug – pregabalin, duloxetine, milnacipran. 'With >0 NCAD' refers to patients who used NCAD in at least one 6-month period. 'With >1 NCAD' refers to patients who used NCAD in at least two 6-month periods. CAD, central acting drug; CI, confidence interval; HAQ, Health Assessment Questionnaire.

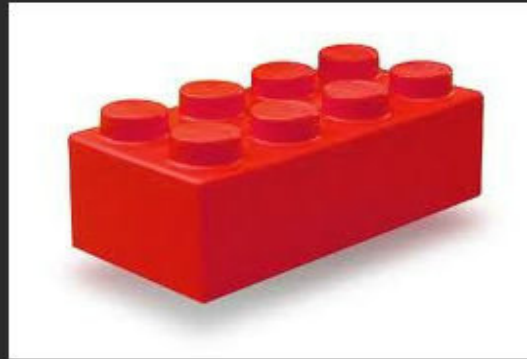
Means are average adjusted values for study variable before and following the start of CAD therapies.

^aPre NCAD = data from observations prior to start of NCAD. On + Post CAD = observations after the start of NCAD whether or not the patient was still using NCAD.

Conclusions

- Functional Pain Disorders encompass a wide array of common disabling syndromes
- Evidence suggests that Functional Pain Disorders share common neurobiological underpinnings
- Unfortunately, treatment targeting these changes has not been particularly effective to date

Who ever said stepping on one of these:

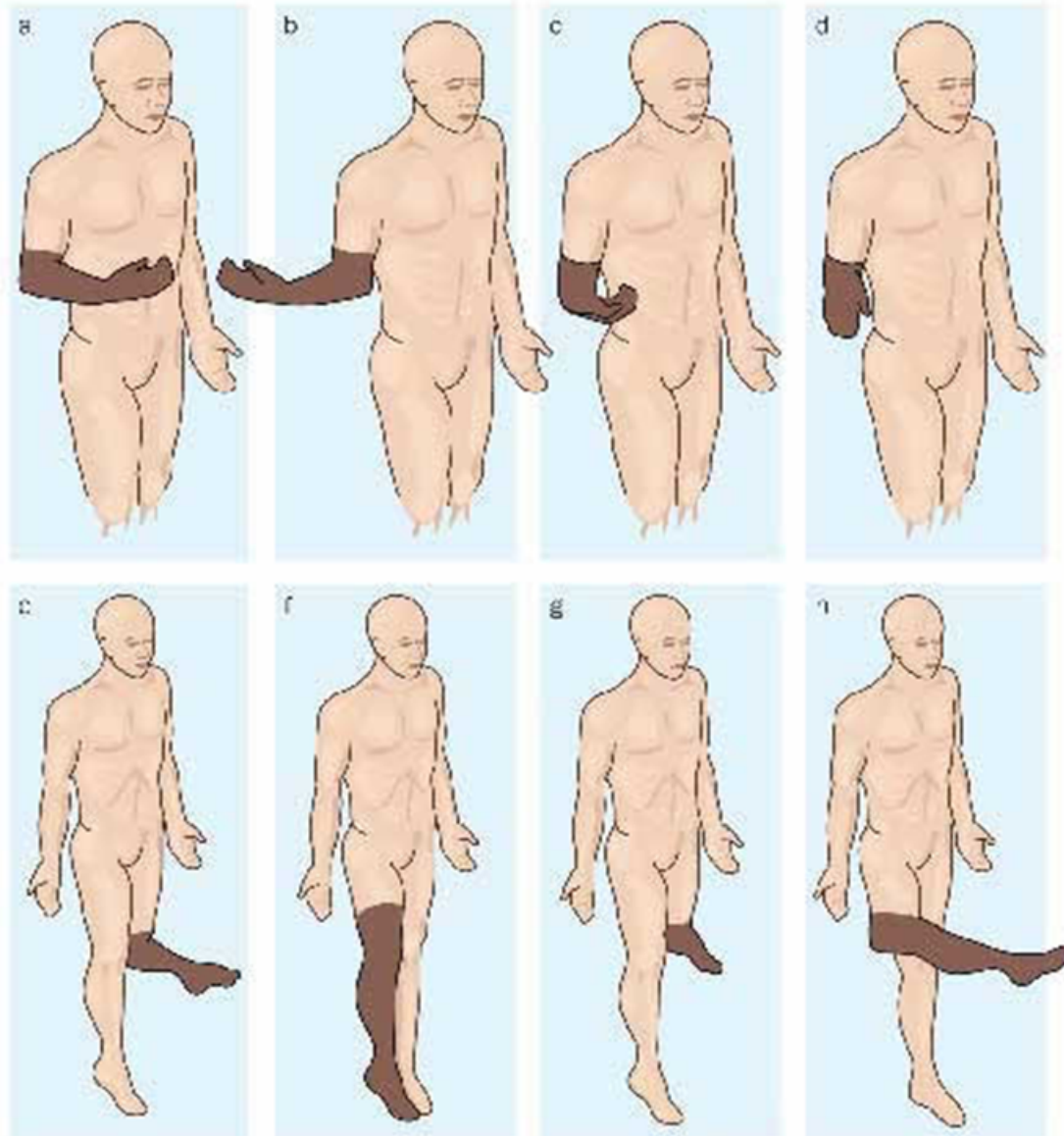


is the worst pain ever, has obviously never stepped on one of these:

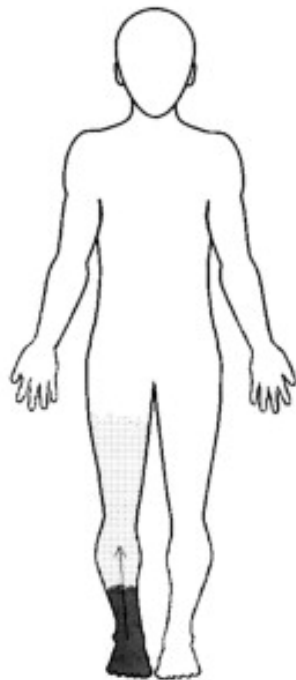




Extra Slides

Phantom Limb Pain

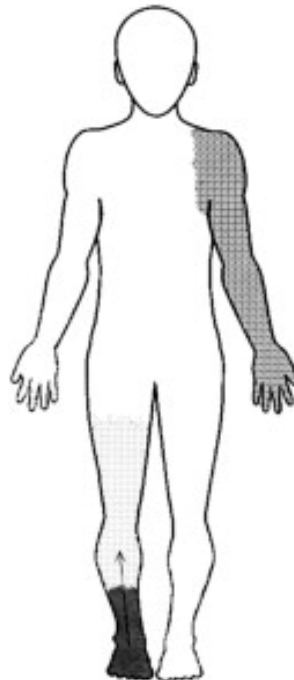




Contiguous Spread



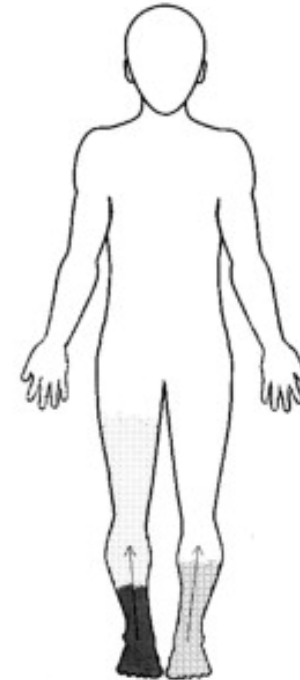
 Contiguous Spread
 Primary Site




Independent Spread



 Independent Spread
 Contiguous Spread
 Primary Site

Mirror-image Spread



 Mirror-Image Spread
 Contiguous Spread
 Primary Site

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome